

Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Which would you rather have a part-time legislature or reduce by half number of representatives from Saipan?

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INSIDE



Final Flight

Discovery, the world's most traveled spaceship, thunders into orbit for the final time.

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People Power

The Philippine Consulate General marks the 25th anniversary of the People Power Revolution.

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Oscars Hosts

James Franco and Anne Hathaway prepare to host the Academy Awards.

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AFTER 27 YEARS OF DOING BUSINESS IN THE CNMI

Saipan Sanko to suspend operations

» 'There's not that many Japanese tourists anymore'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Saipan Sanko Transportation Inc., one of the first Japanese-owned, tourism-related businesses to be established in the CNMI, will indefinitely suspend its bus transportation service after 27 years of operation on the islands.

Yasuhiro Sato, general manager of Saipan Sanko, said yesterday that their bus operations will be suspended on March 31.

"We are not closing. But our operations will shrink by about 80 percent. Our bus operations will be suspended," Sato told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Saipan Sanko started operating its bus transportation service in December 1984.

It is one of the longest tourism-related businesses in the CNMI to be severely impacted by the drop in tourist arrivals and the general economic downturn.

Visitor arrivals in January alone dropped by 3 percent, or from 35,716 in January to 2010 to 34,738 last month, the Marianas Visitors Authority reported yesterday. *See sidebar.*

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We are hurting, but we can't do anything.
—Yasuhiro Sato, Saipan Sanko general manager

January visitor arrivals down 3 pct.

» Arrivals from Japan fell 13 percent last month

January 2011 visitor arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands were down 3 percent compared to January 2010. According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota totaled 34,738 visitors last month compared to 35,716 in January 2010.

Arrivals from Japan fell 13 percent to 15,646 visitors due to a decline in air seats. In January 2010, the CNMI had

two charter flights and five daily direct flights from Japan—three from Narita, one from Nagoya, and one from Osaka. In January 2011, one flight from Narita was reduced from daily to three flights weekly, and daily flights from Nagoya were reduced from daily to three flights weekly on Jan. 3 to 9 and suspended on Jan. 10 to Feb. 1. Nagoya flights re-launched on Feb. 2 and will

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Clash of views on foreign workers' status—again

» Senate public hearing, peaceful march draw hundreds

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Community members again shared opposing views on what to do with long-term nonresident workers in the CNMI during a Senate-hosted public hearing that drew some 300 people Thursday night.

Prior to the public hearing, some 200 adults and children marched from Kili Beach to the public hearing's venue, the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

The marchers, waving small green flags, wearing green ribbons, and carrying banners, are pushing Congress to grant long-term foreign workers U.S. citizenship or a permanent resident status commonly referred to as "green card" that will provide them a pathway to citizenship.

Only about half of the marchers went inside the multi-purpose center because of limited seats.

The 29 who testified at the public hearing expressed varied views. Many of them support granting a status that will allow foreign workers to continue working and residing in the CNMI, while only a few opposed any improved status.

Of those who supported having foreign workers continue to stay in the CNMI, some supported granting them a status similar to those granted Freely Associated States citizens as offered by the CNMI Senate, while many supported either "green card" or outright U.S. citizenship.

Many of those who testified were the same individuals who spoke at



hearings held from June to August last year.

After the public hearings, the Senate Federal Relations and Independent Agencies Committee will finalize its recommendation for endorsement by the full Senate and submission to Congress.

Toward the end of the public hearing, Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan), who is a member of the FRIA



People fall in line as police officers inspect every individual's belongings before entering the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe Thursday night for the Senate public hearing on the immigration status of long-term foreign workers in the CNMI. Inset shows members of the crowd at the public hearing inside the center.

Committee, said for the longest time, no agency or branch of the government has looked at the status of nonresident workers except the CNMI Senate, which initiated public hearings last year.

As a result of last year's public hearings, the Senate FRIA Committee chaired by Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) was able to produce a draft recommendation on the status of foreign workers.

Reyes said the Senate committee is

somewhat taken aback that they have become a target of criticism mostly by nonresidents, for taking a stand on something that the same nonresidents would benefit from.

The former Senate president also said it seems to the committee that many members of the community have not fully understood what the Senate committee's draft recommendation to Congress really is.

"I'm hurt that people have started ver-

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Task force seizes 38 marijuana plants, alleged cultivator falls. PAGE 2
EMO warns of dangerous surf until Monday night. PAGE 5

Local

Task force seizes 38 marijuana plants, alleged cultivator falls

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Members of the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force arrested Thursday a 42-year-old man who was allegedly found cultivating 38 marijuana plants near his house in Kagman III.

Vicente Blas Camacho was taken to the Superior Court yesterday on charges of illegal possession of controlled substance and trafficking of controlled substance. Bail was set at \$25,000 cash. Preliminary hearing will be on March 3, 2011 at 9am.

Detective Roque K. Cama-

cho stated in his report that he received information on Jan. 21 that Camacho and another man were seen unloading marijuana trees from a car.

That same day, detective Camacho said, he and detectives Steven Castro and Dennis Reyes proceeded to Vicente Camacho's residence.

One of the detectives spotted a marijuana plant in a flower pot located about five feet behind the house.

Detective Camacho said he followed a trail at the back of the house that led to the marijuana plantation, with plants ranging from a foot to seven feet tall.

The defendant allegedly confessed to owning the marijuana plantation. Detective Camacho said that Vicente Camacho also admitted smoking and selling marijuana.

Task Force members uprooted 38 marijuana plants that are now being kept in the Crime Scene Investigation ev-

idence room.

Detective Camacho said a test conducted on Jan. 26 came out presumptive positive for marijuana. At the time, the marijuana plants were already dried and weighed 1.41 lbs, he added.

Police served the defendant with an arrest warrant on Thursday at 5:58pm.

Federal Interagency Group prepares for islands' CEOs

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Next week, in Washington, D.C., the chief executives and congressional representatives of each of the U.S. insular areas will gather with senior-level officials from more than 20 federal agencies to discuss issues of importance to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the

U.S. Virgin Islands. The 2011 Interagency Group on Insular Areas meeting will be held at the South Interior Building on Tuesday, March 1.

On April 14, 2010, President Barack Obama signed Executive Order 13537 that strengthens and reestablishes the White House as co-chair of the IGIA. This will be the first meeting since the signing of the E.O.

where Cecilia Muñoz, White House director of Intergovernmental Affairs will preside as an official co-chair, along with Assistant Secretary Anthony M. Babauta, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar's designee.

"Last year's IGIA and the subsequent working meetings that followed were an opportunity to familiarize Obama Administration officials on issues

specifically of concern to U.S. territories. During the intervening year, we have worked to respond as best as possible to issues raised by Governors and Members of Congress," said Babauta.

This year's federal agency presentations include:

- 2010 Census and rollout for the territories;
- Office of Insular Affairs and

Bureau of Economic Analysis collaboration to collect GDP data for the territories;

■ OIA/NREL Initiatives in the Pacific Territories and Energy Initiatives in the Virgin Islands;

■ Small Business Administration;

■ Health and Human Services on the Health Care Reform Act;

■ Education on ARRA Funding: Status of awards and projects;

■ Maritime cabotage in the territories;

■ DHS implementation of federal immigration law in the CNMI;

■ USDA Rural Development

models for economic development

"This year, I am excited to once again welcome the governors from all of our insular areas and newly-elected Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo," said Babauta. "The current fiscal and political environments will continue to challenge the Administration and lawmakers alike as we continue to work through older and newer issues, but my hope is that participants will walk away from this meeting with a better sense of the commitment and attention which exists throughout the federal government toward our U.S. territories. (OIA)

EPA proposes creation of work group to focus on funding issue

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency proposed yesterday the creation of a work group and process relating to future potential funding and the re-allocation of existing federal funding available to the CNMI so that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. could meet all EPA requirements.

EPA counsel Bradley R. O'Brien underscored the importance of creating an efficient process involving the many revenue and federal grant stakeholders to ensure that CUC and the CNMI can fund and timely meet the requirements of two stipulated orders that require CUC to bring its water services and oil management practices up to federal standards.

O'Brien made the proposal in a letter to Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham and CUC general counsel Deborah E. Fisher. He filed the letter in the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday.

He suggested bringing together with EPA, CUC, and the CNMI work group those persons and entities typically involved in the CNMI federal funding process and in implementing CNMI drinking water, wastewater, and oil handling projects.

The EPA counsel said the work group will focus on the application, allocation, and re-allocation of federal funding and any other funding sources available to the CNMI that will facilitate CUC's and the CNMI's compliance with the

stipulated orders.

Since the stipulated orders' approval in March 2009, the U.S. government has been concerned that CUC and the CNMI continue to underfund mandated actions and required projects.

As part of the ongoing discussions with CUC and the CNMI, O'Brien said that one goal of the stipulated orders is to reshape CUC as a self-sustaining utility using revenues generated by its own operations and not dependent on federal handouts.

"However, CUC and the CNMI have stated that federal assistance is needed at least in the short term to fund the requirements of the stipulated orders," he said.

The Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs, and EPA has already provided some funds for mandated projects but the CNMI and CUC insist that more money is needed if they are to fully comply with the stipulated orders.

On Jan. 4, 2011, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial issued a directive forming a Federal Grants Task Force to manage federal grants received by the CNMI. It aims to track unused grant funds and determine how to use them effectively.

O'Brien suggested that task force members participate in the work group and process.

He said DOI-OIA has confirmed that it will participate in this process. If other federal agencies may have additional funding available for CUC projects, O'Brien said they will consider adding them to the work group.



OIA

This photo shows the 2010 senior plenary session of the Interagency Group on Insular Areas (Main South Department of the Interior).

Australian film festival in Guam next week

The Australian Embassy in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, is holding an Embassy Roadshow Film Festival in Guam from March 4 to 6, 2011, called "Australia on Screen 2011: Showcasing contemporary mainstream and indigenous Australian film."

A total of six feature films and six short films will be screened, free to the public over the course of the festival, which will be held at Tango Theatre's Agana Center Stadium Theatres. Tickets will be available at the theatre box office one hour prior to each screening.

The embassy's chargé d'affaires, Sam Uprichard, a film buff in his own right, reviewed the list of films and believes that it represents a great mix for the Guam audience. "With films like *Chopper* and *Two Hands*, Guam residents will get to see two films that launched the Hollywood careers of Eric Bana (*The Hulk*)

and Heath Ledger (*The Dark Knight*). The same goes for Sam Worthington (*Terminator Salvation* and *Avatar*) in the movie *Dirty Deeds*."

Although Uprichard hasn't seen the opening night feature film *Bran Nue Dae*, he has met the female lead actress, Jessica Mauboy, at an event in Canberra, Australia. "She's absolutely charming. The film received great reviews in Australia. It's based on a famous musical so

it's very upbeat. Jessica just released a song, *Saturday Night*, featuring Ludacris on her new album ("Get Em Girls"), so she's an up-and-coming music star to keep an eye out for."

Other highlights of the festival include *Ten Canoes*, a film that focuses on an aboriginal man, Dayindi, who covets one of the wives of his older brother. To teach him the proper way, he is told a story from the mythical past, a story of wrong love, kidnapping, sorcery, bungling may-

hem and revenge gone wrong. The storytelling is in English with subtitles when they speak their Ganalbingu language. "It's a film unlike any you have ever seen and definitely one of the main attractions for the festival," said Uprichard.

Lastly, there is a compilation of six Australian short films that will be very entertaining. The centerpiece is *Harvey Krumpet*, which is the biography of an ordinary man seemingly cursed with perpetual bad luck—a 22-minute claymation film by Adam Elliot, narrated by Geoffrey Rush (*Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest*), which won an Academy Award in 2003 for Best Short Film (Animated).

All of the films in the set have won various awards and accolades in film festivals across the world. Visit the Australian Embassy's Events page at <http://www.fsm.embassy.gov.au/phpi/events.html> which contains more details on the films. (PR)

SCREENING SCHEDULE

Friday, March 4, 2011

6pm – *Bran Nue Dae* (88 min) PG-13
8pm – *Chopper* (94 min) R

Saturday, March 5, 2011

2pm – *Ten Canoes* (92 min) Unrated
5pm – *Dirty Deeds* (110 min) R
8pm – *Two Hands* (90 min) R

Sunday March 6, 2011

1pm – Australian Short Films: (130 min)
Harvey Krumpet (23min)
Green Bush (27min),
Mozzie (7min),
Crocodile Dreaming (25min),
Birthday Boy (10min),
Mysterious Explorations of Jasper Morello (26 min),
4pm – *Look Both Ways* (100 min) PG-13

Inos: First monthly BGRT payments due March 31

Student achievement data sought to guide strategy for economic devt

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Legislature has asked Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan to provide it with data on student achievement that it intends to use to create a sustainable economic development strategy for the Commonwealth.

House Vice Speaker Felicidad T. Ogomoro specifically asked Sablan for records of student achievement in the last five school years based on standardized test results such as the Stanford Achievement Test, language and reading, math proficiency, cultural literacy, and others—broken down into per school and per grade level.

“Specifically, zero in on targets/benchmarks, deficits/gaps, stopgap measures/approaches, and timeline for achievement/proficiency gap strategic closures as follows: basic literacy, academic achievement, vocational skills development and assessment, and career transitional readiness or post-high school readiness,” Ogomoro told Sablan in a letter last week.

The vice speaker indicated that House members also want to tour campuses to assess the situation in public schools.

Last month, the House Ways and Means Committee, in partnership with the leadership of the 17th Legislature, held a one-day economic forum with industrial leaders, community stakeholders, workforce development institutions, and local government agencies. The event focused on issues affecting business, trade, commerce, and human development.

“The intent of the summit was to gain first-hand accounts directly from businesses, the community, and manpower development institutions on the economic constraints and possibilities and how existing assets such as high school graduates could be accessed and engaged in developing short-term exit strategy and long-term plan for sustainable economic development and growth to achieve an enduring economic prosperity,” said Ogomoro.

The vice speaker disclosed that summit participants would have been interested in updated information and data on secondary education, training, and certification programs.

PSS earlier disclosed that an estimated 600 students graduate from public high schools each year, majority of whom go to college; the rest join the workforce and the military.

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos said Thursday that the first monthly filing and payment of gross revenue tax as a result of a newly signed law will be due by March 31.

Businesses are supposed to pay their January and February gross revenue by March 31, and pay their March gross revenue tax by April 30, and so forth.

Because the January and February taxes will have to be filed and paid at the same time, this means that for 2011, there will only be 11 monthly filings instead of 12, said Inos, a former Finance secretary who currently

oversees government finances.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed on Feb. 16 Public Law 17-30, changing the schedule of paying business gross revenue from quarterly to monthly basis, to spread out the revenue collections throughout the year.

Inos said regulations to promulgate PL 17-30 are now being drafted, while the monthly tax forms are being printed.

“We’re saying for the month of January and February, that they will be reported beginning end of March. After that, everything will just fall into place. March will be reported in April, and so forth...Like I said before, this multiplies the effort by 200 percent,” he said.

Businesses used to file four tax returns, but the new law requires them to file a total of 12 in a year, except for this year when they will only have 11 filings.

There will now be approximately 4,000 tax filings every month or some 48,000 annually as opposed to only 4,000 every quarter or 16,000 a year.

Inos reiterated that the monthly tax payment law is a revenue-neutral law; meaning, it will not increase government revenue but will only even out the cash flow.

“Basically it gives the benefit to spread out the cash flow evenly as opposed to 75 percent of business gross revenue [tax]

received in the first month after the end of quarter, second month is about 20 percent, third month is about 5 percent,” he said.

The government used to see a surge in cash collection during the month right after the quarterly filing deadline, and see drastic drops on the following two months. With the required monthly payment, the government expects to have steady flow of cash monthly.

Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), author of Senate Bill 17-45 which became PL 17-30, had said if the monthly gross revenue tax payments work in Guam, “why not give it a chance to apply also on a monthly basis in the CNMI?”



TIMBER!

Police sergeant Vicente O. Tagabuel directs traffic flow as Frankie Muna of Frankie's Auto Shop cuts the branches of a flame tree that fell on the highway near the road leading to the Saipan Muslim Community in Finasisu yesterday morning. Fortunately, the tree did not hit any passing vehicle. Fungal disease has reportedly been a problem with flame trees in the CNMI.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Quichocho couple's lawyer says trader's lawsuit a 'twisted story'

The second amended lawsuit filed by an investor against attorney Ramon Q. Quichocho and his wife is still severely defective, according to the Quichocho couple's counsel, Michael W. Dotts.

When asked yesterday for comments about Jung Ja Kim's filing of the second amended lawsuit, Dotts said the complaint is just Kim's “twisted story and is out of touch with reality.”

Dotts said the complaint is still severely defective even after more than a year of Kim trying to get it right.

“My clients may move to dismiss again or they may answer this latest effort by Jung Ka Kim to write a complaint and then try to bring this case to a more rapid conclusion,” he lawyer said.

Kim's complaint accuses Ramon Quichocho and his wife, Frances Quichocho, of allegedly engaging in racketeering activity and money laundering.

Kim, through counsel Colin Thompson, sued Ramon Quichocho, Frances Quichocho, the Quichocho law firm, and the couple's company, Karris LLC, for violation of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, RICO.

Kim is suing Ramon Quichocho and his law firm for legal malpractice-professional negligence and breach of fiduciary duty. She is also suing the couple and the law office, for breach of lease agreements. In addition, Kim is suing the couple for conversion, fraud, and constructive trust.

Kim alleged that the defendants defrauded her of two of her poker businesses under the guise of protecting her from litigation by her former husband and his family and helping her through a period of depression.

In April 2010, the federal court dismissed three of Kim's nine claims in the original complaint. The judge, however, allowed her to amend her complaint.

Kim later filed an amended complaint, asserting the same nine causes of action against the defendants.

The federal court granted, among other claims, the Quichocho couple's motion to dismiss the RICO conspiracy claim against the defendants. The judge allowed Kim to amend the claim, which she recently did with her second amended complaint. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Fitial names health advisory council members

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has named the nine members and officers of a health panel called the Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant Advisory Council, to guide the implementation of “Project Brabu.”

Project Brabu seeks to prevent youths and adults from engaging in risky behaviors such as tobacco, alcohol and illicit drug use.

Fitial, in an executive order signed on Feb. 16, named the nine advisory council members from the public and private sectors led by chairman Jerome Jerome of the Criminal

Justice Planning Agency, and vice chairman Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan).

The seven other members are: Department of Public Health's Margaret Aldan, Public School System's Jonas Barcinas, Department of Public Safety's Joe Saures, community representative Claudio Norita, Saipan Chamber of Commerce's James Arenovski, Fr. Jesse Reyes of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, and Crispin Sablan of the CNMI Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition.

Damaris Richardson of the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention will also be a part of the advisory council in an ex-officio role.

DPH's Community Guidance Center applied through the Office of the Governor applied for a Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant, to fund Project Brabu.

The U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Center for Substance Abuse Prevention approved the grant application.

As condition of the grant, the CNMI has to form a SPF SIG Advisory Council appointed by the governor to advise, develop and implement the requirements, goals and objectives of the Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant.

Members of the advisory council will serve until the ex-

piration of the grant term of five years, until a member voluntarily resigns, or is removed by the governor.

The council may make nominations to the governor for consideration in filling any member vacancy.

Meetings will be held every third Wednesday of the month every other month for the first six months, and quarterly thereafter for the first year unless otherwise called for urgent or specific purposes by the chairperson.

DPH's Community Guidance Center is the lead agency for the administration of the grant and the implementation of the proposal.

SANKO

From Page 1

“We are hurting, but we can’t do anything,” Sato said.

He said right now, Saipan Sanko is providing bus service to tourists from Narita, Nagoya, and Osaka in Japan.

Sato said if they would still operate in April, their expected market would only be those from Narita.

He said there’s just not that many Japanese tourists anymore as customers.

Nenita Gison, 55, who has been a Saipan Sanko accountant for 21 years, said it’s sad to see a company she has come to love forced to reduce most of its operations.

“I started working here in 1990. I’m so sad when I first heard that our bus operation will be suspended. We’re like a family here. I’m so at ease working here for 21 years. But I understand the situation; the business is not doing good and it’s not only us,” Gison said yesterday.

Gison said she’s thankful to Saipan Sanko for giving her an opportunity to work and in the process, allowed her to earn and invest in businesses in her hometown of Taguig, Metro Manila in the Philippines.

Gison is one of the 23 employees that Saipan Sanko currently employs in its Chalan Laulau location.

Sato said by April, only five of the 23 will remain.

Most of the 18 that will be let go are

U.S. citizens or immediate relatives of citizens, and only at least four who are mechanics are nonresident workers.

Gison said she’s one of those who will continue to work beyond March, but will eventually also have to be let go.

Sato said some 20 percent of Saipan Sanko’s operation will remain, and they are looking at other tourist-related operations like being travel agents.

“But we have not totally decided yet,” he said.

Saipan Sanko currently has 13 buses, most of which are 53-passenger buses while the others are 49-seaters and 58-seaters.

The transportation company has also been active in community projects and activities such as sponsorships of com-

munity and tourism programs.

‘If this trend continues...’

David M. Sablan Sr., president of Century Insurance Co. and the first chairman of the Marianas Visitors Bureau which is now the Marianas Visitors Authority, said yesterday that Saipan Sanko’s business decision to reduce some 80 percent of its operations is yet another sad episode for the CNMI’s tourism industry.

“It’s a very sad indication to see a company of that age—27 years—reduce its size tremendously,” Sablan said in an interview.

He said the size of the economy could also be gauged by the government’s projected revenue from taxes and fees. He said for the government

to have an estimated \$120 million budget for fiscal year 2012, down from the current year’s \$132 million, is a good barometer of economic health.

“If this trend continues, I’m afraid that even hotels will close some or many of their rooms. That will be too costly for the industry,” said Sablan, one of the pioneers in the CNMI tourism industry.

He is urging the business community to put their heads together and find a way to revitalize the tourism industry.

The up to \$6.2 million tourism incentive program that was signed into law, he said, is just half of the battle. The other half is finding or making sure there’s money to fund the program, at a time when payrolls are getting delayed.

JANUARY

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continue through April 3.

This month the CNMI government enacted a Japan Air Service Stabilization Program with up to \$6.2 million over the next two years aimed at keeping flights from Nagoya and Osaka in operation on a year-round basis.

“This new law establishes a consensus across the government that regular flights from Nagoya and Osaka are essential to the health of our tourism industry,” said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. “We are looking forward to establishing the rules and regulations for the implementation of the air stabilization program.”

Meanwhile, arrivals from the pri-

mary market of South Korea posted another month of gain at 8 percent to 12,685, riding the country’s continued economic strength. Given South Korea’s continued powerful economic recovery and airlift support from Asiana Airlines, the MVA is projecting continued strong growth in arrivals from Korea to the CNMI for the remainder of 2011.

The secondary market of China

saw 3,885 arrivals in January, a 27-percent increase over the same month last year. Although there was a decline in air seats, demand for the destination increased. In January 2010, two regular charter flights from Guangzhou and Shanghai each flew twice a week; last month, charter flights from Shanghai were in operation and charter flights from Beijing resumed on Jan. 21.

Arrivals from Russia increased 23 percent to 599 in January following the rebound of the Russian ruble and several media and travel agent familiarization tours to the Northern Marianas in late 2010.

Arrivals from the Philippines, Taiwan, and Other Areas were unchanged, while arrivals from Guam and the United States posted double-digit declines. **(MVA)**

CLASH

From Page 1

bally attacking us. ... This is not a very popular move,” Reyes said at the public hearing, adding that it is neither a popular political move.

Reyes pointed out that what the Senate committee is proposing is a status that will allow nonresident workers to continue to live and work in the CNMI, or travel to the U.S. and its territories.

He said what the Senate is proposing strikes a balance between the concerns of the resident population and the non-resident population.

Senate draft report

Under the Senate’s draft recommendation to Congress, nonresident workers who have been in the CNMI for at least 10 years when the federalization law was signed in May 2008 will have to wait for five more years or until 2013 to become eligible to apply for a FAS-like status.

A previous Senate draft recommendation did not include that five-year wait period, allowing foreign workers who have been in the CNMI for at least 10 years as of May 2008 to immediately apply for FAS-like status.

Hofschneider said his committee held this last round of public hearing to get the public’s views on their draft recommendation of a FAS-like status for eligible foreign workers.

At the public hearing, most of the comments were not about supporting or opposing the Senate’s draft recommendation—but mostly about pathway to citizenship or no improved status at all.

Testimonies

The first one to testify among 29 individuals was former House speaker Oscar Rasa, who said that there’s no need to provide special process to grant improved status to foreign workers in the CNMI since the Immigration and Nationality Act now fully applies to the commonwealth.

“Why are we making special legislation for certain people when INA applies?” he asked.

Rasa said before Gov. Benigno R. Fitial left for Washington, D.C. early this week, the governor reiterated that he would rather extend the umbrella

permits beyond the original expiration of November 2011 to allow foreign workers and their immediate relatives to continue to stay in the CNMI.

His views were somewhat shared by Indigenous Affairs Office resident executive director Ignacio “Ike” Demapan, former speaker Pedro Deleon Guerrero and others who opposed not only a FAS-like status but especially U.S. citizenship or pathway to citizenship.

Ed Diaz, who was the 29th to testify before others were given the chance to speak for the second time, said nonresident workers have been in the CNMI for the longest time—some for more than 20 years.

“They’re supposed to be temporary workers but they’ve been here forever and we’re not doing anything about it. I don’t think the U.S. Congress will act on the five recommendations [by the U.S. Interior]. There’s turmoil in the Middle East,” he said.

‘FAS-like status is more than fair’

Jesus Pangelinan said he fully supports the Senate’s draft recommendation to the U.S. Congress.

“It [FAS-like status] is highly reasonable,” he said. “Nonresident workers came here to work and after working, they have to return [to their country]. They knew that from the start their stay in the CNMI is temporary. So a FAS-like status is more than fair. It’s unjust to grant them automatic citizenship.”

Pangelinan said such FAS-like status will also help protect the rights of indigenous people whom he said “will be a minority in our own land.”

“FAS-like status is fair to both non-resident workers and indigenous people,” he said.

Others spoke in the vernacular, including the governor’s special advisor, Dolores Aldan and Juan Reyes.

Richard Hofschneider said CNMI residents who are U.S. citizens cannot even vote for the president of the United States, and whose delegate to the U.S. Congress cannot even vote on bills.

Reggie Rivera, who came to Saipan in 1998, thanked the CNMI for giving him the opportunity to work and live in the CNMI and said he’s not asking for U.S. citizenship.

“It’s a miracle if that happens,” he

said, adding that what he wants is a stable status to be able to continue working in the CNMI.

‘Unacceptable’

Regina Diesta, in her brief testimony, said the Senate’s previous draft recommendation allowing eligible nonresident workers to apply for FAS-like status immediately “gave us hope.”

But she said hope was lost when the Senate committee revised the draft to add a five-year waiting period or until 2013 before they could apply for an improved status.

“Why not give us green card?” she asked.

Malou Berueco, a long-term non-resident worker, said the Senate’s latest draft report is “unacceptable.”

Many others shared the same concern, saying that after November 2011, many foreigners who have been in the CNMI for a long time and who just recently lost their jobs because of the weak economy would be out of status.

Rabby Syed, president of the United Workers Movement-NMI that led the peaceful march, read his written testimony before the committee.

“Our position remains the same. We the members of the UWM-NMI agree with the Department of the Interior’s April 2010 recommendation to the U.S. Congress, and we support long-term status for legal foreign workers that will include a direct pathway to U.S. citizenship. We cannot accept a status that would provide us less than this,” Syed said.

Former representative Tina Sablan and Glen Hunter told the Senate committee that they want the record to reflect that they are supporting pathway to U.S. citizenship or citizenship to long-term foreign workers, the same statements they had last year but were not included in the Senate’s draft report.

Syed, for his part, said his testimony last year was backed by a petition signed by over 7,000 individuals who wanted pathway to citizenship or citizenship.

“The Senate report only confirms that our fears were well-justified, as it seems that not all testimonies and viewpoints were in fact fairly considered by the Senate committee in drafting the report,” Sablan said in her testimony.

‘Immediate status’

Bonifacio Sagana, president of the Dekada Movement, one of the first groups to push for improved status for long-term foreign workers, said in his written testimony that Dekada strongly supports immediate stable status for nonresident workers before November 2011.

Sagana said all aliens present in the CNMI who had legal status on Nov. 27, 2009, should be allowed to continue to stay and work legally for five additional years.

He also said all aliens legally residing in the CNMI for at least 10 years as of May 8, 2008, should be eligible to self-petition for “green card” and adjustment of status with fees waived.

David M. Sablan Sr., one of the pioneer businessmen in the area of tourism in the CNMI, said foreign workers who have helped build and maintain businesses in the CNMI should be granted improved status.

He said the Senate’s draft proposal would have been better if the additional five-year waiting period is removed.

“It’s inappropriate for the government—local or federal—to jeopardize my business or others’ businesses by not allowing these foreign workers to continue to live and work in the CNMI,” he said in an interview later, adding that these foreign workers should be granted improved status.

At the Senate public hearing, he said it’s not the foreign workers’ fault that the local workforce could still not meet the requirements of the local economy.

Rene Reyes, president of the Marianas Advocates for Humanitarian Affairs Ltd. or Mahal, said they do not support a FAS-like status but support a status leading to U.S. citizenship.

Others who testified were CNMI Labor’s Barry Hirshbein, John Gonzales, Conrado Ocampo, Juan Sablan, Ray B. Camacho, student Hazel Doctor, Mar Masilungan, attorney Steve Woodruff, Edong “Dragon” Elenzano, at least two Chinese individuals, and two others.

Peaceful march, heavy security

The march, led by the United Workers Movement-NMI and the Human Dignity Movement, began from Kili Beach at around 5:30pm and ended in front of the multi-purpose center.

“Green cards and pathway to citizen-

ship,” “Against FAS,” “Green card,” \$6.1 million back wages pay us now,” and “Don’t let CNMI government break our family by trying to send our parents home,” read some of the banners and streamers that the marchers held.

He Xiu Jun, 34, said she joined the march because she wants a status that will allow her to remain in the CNMI to be with her 3-year-old son, who is a U.S. citizen.

“If I go home, who would take care of my son? I want to stay here. I want green card,” said the former garment worker who is originally from China.

Syed said he’s happy with the march turnout, hoping that Washington, D.C. will see that the immigration issue in the CNMI is far from being resolved unless long-term foreign workers and those with long-term business permits are granted improved status.

Sapuro Rayphand, one of the U.S. citizens who joined the marchers, said he has always believed in freedom of expression. He is a retired teacher and a former assistant attorney general in Chuuk.

The multi-purpose center was under heavy security, with police officers inspecting the belongings of those who wanted to enter the building and participate in the public hearing.

Minutes before the 6pm public hearing, people lined up to enter the center, be inspected, and sign up an attendance sheet. A separate sheet was offered to those who wanted to testify. Not all those who signed up on this sheet actually gave testimony; some of them left before their names were called.

The Legislative Bureau barred reporters from roaming around to take photos, but allowed non-reporters to take photos while in their seat during the hearing.

The hearing lasted until around 9pm. Besides Hofschneider and Reyes, five other senators were present: Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), and Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian). House Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) also joined the Senate panel in front.

The committee also held a similar public hearing on Tinian last night.

OIA backs public auditor offices of Pacific Islands with \$143.9K grant



WASHINGTON, D.C.—Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas Tony Babauta signed yesterday a Technical Assistance grant for \$143,910 to continue supporting the Association of Pacific Islands Public Auditors, APIPA, in meeting the Government Accountability Office's peer review requirements and standards.

Financial assistance over the last twelve years from the Office of Insular Affairs has allowed territorial and freely associated state governments to strengthen and improve their public auditor capacities.

"For more than a decade, OIA's support has assisted the work of island public auditors to identify deficiencies in local government operations," said Babauta. "For example, internal controls, procurement procedures, and revenue collections have all been identified as lacking for each government. The goal of our continued support is to create greater transparency and accountability of federal and local revenues for the benefit of all island residents."

"This specific grant will allow auditors a unique and important peer review experience; sharing their experiences, learning from one another and synchronizing their efforts to foster transparency and more government accountability during these challenging financial times," Babauta added.

OIA funding will be administered by the Republic of Palau's Office of the Public Auditor to carry out and coordinate this year's peer review project as well as update the APIPA Peer Review Manual. The manual was first adopted in 2007 as a way of promoting standards of quality and integrity of each audit office. (OIA)

low auditors a unique and important peer review experience; sharing their experiences, learning from one another and synchronizing their efforts to foster transparency and more government accountability during these challenging financial times," Babauta added.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

3rd Annual Walk to Remember today

For the third year in a row, Tan Holdings will be leading a *Walk to Remember* to honor the memory of the late *Saipan Tribune* publisher "JP" John Pangelinan, who passed away in 2008 after a long battle with cancer.

The walk will be held this morning, Feb. 26, 2011, from the JP Center in Garapan to Susupe Beach Park; there will be water stations along the way. Registration opens at 5am. Participants will be asked to donate \$5 each, and the proceeds will go toward the Marianas March Against Cancer, benefiting cancer education and support programs in the CNMI. Participants will be offered free t-shirts, as well as refreshments and entertainment at Susupe Beach Park. Shuttle transportation back to Garapan will be available.

For more information or to register in advance, contact Becky Tenorio at 233-8080 or email becky_tenorio@tanholdings.com. (PR)

Free flu vaccines available today

The Department of Public Health will be offering free flu vaccines to the public today, Feb. 26, 2011, 7am-12pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gym in Susupe. All individuals ages 6 months and up will be eligible for the free vaccine, except those who are allergic to eggs or with a fever. Children must be accompanied by a guardian. For more information, call 236-8307 or visit www.dphflu-watch.gov.mp. (PR)

CCA board meeting to elect officers on Monday

The Commonwealth Cancer Association board of directors will be convening a board meeting for the election of board officers on Monday, Feb. 28, 2011 at the Department of Public Health Secretary's Conference Room, starting at 4:30pm. The agenda also includes adoption of minutes, appointment by the board to fill a vacancy (the appointee shall serve for the unexpired term of his/her predecessor, Robert Torres, who stepped down from the board last week), clarification of CCA policy on qualified expenses for the patient assistance program, open discussion, and executive session.

For more information, call the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050, email cca@ccamarianas.org, or visit www.ccamarianas.org. (PR)

Military training on Farallon de Medinilla, Warning Area-517

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on the following dates and times:

- Feb. 28 to March 1, from 7am to 4am
- March 1 to 4, from 10am to 6pm

The military will also conduct training at Warning Area 517 on March 1-2, from 8am to 5pm.

The public—especially fisherman, commer-

cial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This training will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. (PR)

CNMI Women's Association on Marianas Agupa

Marianas Agupa will feature today Susan Deleon Guerrero and Malua Peters of the CNMI Women's Association, from 10am to 10:30am on Magic 100.3 FM. Topic of discussion will be issues affecting today's women and other activities and events sponsored by the association.

The Chamorro talk show program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona. It will feature reports by former mayor Joseph S. Inos, commentator Thomas D. Mendiola from Rota, and former senator David M. Cing from Tinian. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. (PR)

FOA to hold auditions for next production

Friends of the Arts announces auditions for its upcoming production, *The Three Musketeers*, a comedy version, G-rated. There are 18 roles, all ages; gender is not really an issue. New faces are welcome. Rehearsals will begin next week, March 3. Performance dates are April 29 and 30 and May 1.

Auditions will be held this weekend, Saturday, Feb. 26, from 9am to noon, and on Sunday, Feb. 27, from 1pm to 5pm, in Room D101 at Marianas High School. Come and take part in another great show. For more information, contact Frank Gibson at flgibson@yahoo.com. (PR)

Veteran outreach on Rota, Saipan

This is to let all veterans, and all concern that on April 4-7, 2011,

Tina San Augustine, the federal Department of Veterans Affairs legal administrative specialist from Guam, and Ruth Coleman, executive officer of the Office of Military/Veterans Affairs, will be on Rota and Saipan for an outreach on veterans' federal benefits. They will be also entertaining questions and assisting with claims.

■ Rota: April 4-5, 2011, 8:30am-4:30pm at the Rota WIA office

■ Saipan: April 6-7, 2011, 8:30am-4:30pm at the Office of the Military/Veterans Affairs on Capitol Hill, building 1364

To make an appointment or for further information, call Coleman or Bernie Dela Cruz at the Office of Military/Veterans Affairs at 664-2650. (PR)

EMO warns of dangerous surf until Monday night

The Emergency Management Office is advising the public to avoid venturing into CNMI waters at least until Monday night due to dangerous surf and rip tides that are life threatening.

EMO issued yesterday a high surf warning and a small crafts advisory that advises the public to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along north facing and

east facing reefs.

The high surf warning is in effect until 6am Tuesday, while the small craft advisory is in effect until 6am Monday.

Smaller vessels are also advised to avoid navigating in these conditions.

Based on information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, EMO said that surf will build to dangerous levels of 12 to 16 feet

along north facing reefs and 10 to 13 feet along east facing reefs on Tinian and Saipan.

"Surf will remain hazardous through the weekend into the coming week. The heavy surf may cause inundations of north facing shores at times and mainly during high tides. Surf will begin to diminish Monday but will remain hazardous," the EMO advisory states. (Saipan Tribune)

Japan Times to feature 'Oba' historic tour of Saipan

Interest in the Northern Mariana Islands continues to build as a result of the release last month of the movie *Oba: the Last Samurai*, chronicling the story of Sakae Oba, the last member of the Japanese Imperial Army to surrender to U.S. forces on Saipan more than a year after the World War II Battle of the Marianas had concluded.

The Japan Times Co., Ltd., publisher of *The Japan Times* newspaper, has two media crews on Saipan this week for on-location shooting coverage expected to bring an estimated \$100,000 ad exposure value to this resort destination. The shoot is focusing on an *Oba: the Last Samurai* historic tour being sold by travel agent Pacific Development Inc. as a result of the movie. Diving, scenic sites, and the Garapan Street Market will also be included.

"*Oba: the Last Samurai* is now the No. 1 movie in Japan theatres and continues to bring attention to the Northern Marianas, even as our Japan office operatives continue to make the most of this excellent opportunity in attracting media to our islands," said Marianas Visitors Authority marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "The MVA will continue to work closely with *The Japan Times* and all other media who visit to help ensure their

work here goes smoothly."

The MVA is assisting the newspaper crew with securing shooting permits for various locations and facilitating other aspects of their work here. Also supporting the media tour with complimentary diving and submarine tours are Mariana Sports Club, Inc. and Pacific Subsea Saipan, Inc.

The Japan Times is the largest English-language newspaper in Japan and will feature Saipan on a full-page of their March 20, 2011, issue. In addition to economic, political, sports and hard news, the newspaper also includes commentaries from opinion leaders in various fields, editorials that reflect Japanese public opinion, regional features on everyday life and articles on culture and entertainment.

The newspaper will also contribute a four-page article of Saipan to *WIFM*

(What's In it For Me), a luxury magazine published by custom media quarterly that will feature Saipan in their spring edition in late March.

The media crews arrived on Feb. 19, and will depart on today, Feb. 26. *Oba: the Last Samurai* premiered on Saipan on Jan. 31, 2011, under the coordination of Pacific Eagle Enterprises, Inc. (MVA)



A movie poster of the film *Oba: the Last Samurai*.

NMHC eyes subdividing Rota housing project

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. is looking into the option of subdividing the Rota Section 8 Housing Project.

Program and Housing Division Manager Zerlyn Taimanao said maintaining just 15 of the current 30 units and selling or leasing out the other 15 might be a better option for the agency.

"[It is the best option] just because it has a low occupancy rate and we continuously spend money to maintain and upkeep the units and there's nobody living in there. It's just a cost factor," Taimanao told *Saipan Tribune*.

Taimanao disclosed that their occupancy rate is about 37 per-

cent which translates to 11 occupied units.

"Our occupancy remains 11 out of 30. It's been that way despite our extraordinary outreach," corporate director Joshua Sasamoto emphasized.

According to Taimanao, she got confirmation from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that that option is possible by just revise NMHC's contract.

Taimanao noted that the agency's contract will expire on July 31.

"No final decision has been made as far as selling and how many units will be sold. It's still under review. We're still trying to see how many people are interested on Rota," said

Taimanao.

The division manager disclosed that there have been individuals who already expressed interest on the units.

Taimanao said these individuals want to use the units as an after-school tutoring center, an emergency shelter, and some have expressed their interest on acquiring the units on a lease-to-own agreement.

According to Taimanao, the lease-to-own agreement is also a good option especially for their existing tenants as it gives them the opportunity to own their own houses.

"For individuals to end up owning a home, that's one of our goals. That's what we'd like to see," she added.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

The scourge of Somalia

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Jean and Scott Adam of Marina del Rey, Calif., lived a life many would envy, until it was cut short Tuesday by a band of Somali pirates. On their yacht, Quest, they had spent most of the last decade sailing to exotic locales and were on a trip from Thailand to the Mediterranean with another couple, Phyllis Macay and Robert Riggle of Seattle, when their boat was intercepted off the coast of Oman. All four were shot to death Tuesday by their captors after negotiations with U.S. naval officials for their release apparently broke down.

Pirates plying the seas off Somalia have been a scourge of international shipping for years, but this week's slayings mark the deadliest incident yet involving Americans. In response, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton called on foreign governments to contribute more toward the African Union peacekeeping force in Somalia. Solutions to that country's piracy and governance problems are elusive, but the peacekeeping effort backed by Clinton isn't working, and U.S. policy toward Somalia could stand another look.

Tempting as it is to call for more naval involvement, it's clear that a purely military approach won't cut it. To avoid the U.S. 5th Fleet and other international warships plying the waters near Somalia, pirates are simply ranging farther afield; the seas between Somalia and India are too vast to be effectively patrolled. Meanwhile, every effort by the United States to intervene in Somali affairs since 1993, when the Clinton administration's attempts to subdue Mogadishu's warlords ended in the catastrophe chronicled in the film "Black Hawk Down," has backfired spectacularly.

The latest failed initiative is the so-called Transitional Federal Government, a United Nations fiction that controls a few square blocks in Mogadishu. The United States has invested millions of dollars arming a peacekeeping force to protect the TFG, which has little public support and is widely viewed by Somalis as an invading foreign force. Bronwyn E. Bruton, an Africa scholar with the Council on Foreign Relations, argues convincingly that the TFG is not only failing to spread democracy and the rule of law, it is actually strengthening radical Islamist movements by prompting quarrelsome extremist groups to unite against a common enemy.

Bronwyn's proposed solution is "constructive disengagement," in which the U.S. stops backing a failed U.N. experiment and vows to engage with any government that emerges, including an Islamist one, as long as it renounces international terrorism and agrees not to interfere with humanitarian relief workers. A government with a measure of legitimacy is far likelier to stabilize Somalia than the current puppet regime, even if it's not as secular as we'd like.



I'll take 'Dread of the Future' for \$1,000, Alex

By now, anyone who might have been remotely interested already knows that an IBM computer named "Watson" annihilated two human challengers during a three-day man vs. machine showdown last week on "Jeopardy."

Inasmuch as the median age of a "Jeopardy" viewer is 65, I realize that by acknowledging that I followed this showdown raptly, going so far as to record it, I run the risk of being categorized as (a) a geezer or (b) a nerd or (c) a nerd-geezer.

I further acknowledge that by writing about this topic, I run the risk of exposing myself as a guy who cares way too much about trivia and who knows way too little about computer science.

Nevertheless, duty calls. I'm here today to tell you that "Jeopardy: The IBM Challenge" was frightening stuff. These people want our jobs.

Watson (named after Thomas J. Watson, the man who turned the Computing Tabulating Recording Corporation into Big Blue) consists of 90 IBM Power 750 servers stacked in 10 racks, each rack the size of a refrigerator. Watson has 16 terabytes of memory, which is to say 16 trillion bytes, enabling it to swallow the entire contents of the Encyclopedia Britannica, Wikipedia and the Internet Movie Database along with most of The New York Times archives with plenty of room left over.

Apparently, that's just not a big deal. You stack enough computers, you get capacity, and all that stuff is available on the Internet, anyway. Watson doesn't have an Internet connection, so the trick was teaching Watson how to access, interpret and extrapolate that information within a split second and in response to natural language clues that often contain puns, word play and oblique references.

"Just understanding the question is a pretty good deal," Luis Von Ahn, a computer scientist at Carnegie Mellon University, told the PBS show "Nova." (Yes, I'm such a geezer-nerd that I watched "Nova" about "Jeopardy." So sue me.)

Von Ahn went on to say, in vaguely Rumsfeldian terms, "There's just so much we know that we don't know we know."

Thus we enter the no-longer-science-fiction realm of artificial intelligence, where computers don't just crunch facts, but they also know the things we don't know we know and actually begin to think.

Watson's developers began working on this project in 2006, increasingly running up against the problem of how to program it with what people don't know they know. Eventually, the programmers loaded it with 6 million rules that comprise an estimated 3 percent of what human beings generally call "common sense."

They loaded it with tens of thousands of previous "Jeopardy" clues and answers so that Watson could learn how "Jeopardy's" patterns worked. This became necessary after early tests revealed some

By **KEVIN HERRIGAN**
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

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unfortunate gaps.

During these test runs, Todd Crain, a stand-up comic hired to stand in for "Jeopardy" host Alex Trebek, often made fun of Watson's stupid answers. Eventually Crain started getting on the nerves of David Ferrucci, who led the Watson program.

"He's making fun of a defenseless computer who represents real people with real families," Ferrucci told "Nova." Apparently Ferrucci had been working very hard.

Defenseless? Hardly. At one point, in a category that required Watson and his stand-in competitors to name the months in which certain holidays and occurrences occurred, he came up blank on the first two answers. But after the human competitors answered them correctly, Watson figured out that "Jeopardy" wanted the names of months. He then ran the rest of the category.

The machine was learning as it went along. This was very scary. IBM won't say what it has spent on the Watson project, but estimates run as high as \$2 billion. The company didn't do it just for the publicity, substantial though it has been.

Ferrucci told "Nova" to imagine the possibilities in medicine alone—a computer programmed not only with past medical knowledge, but one programmed to keep up with all the latest medical research and studies. A doctor could input some simple clues and the computer could come with possible diagnoses.

So far, so good. But The New York Times reports that "IBM's executives have said they intend to commercialize Watson to provide a new class of question-answering systems in business, education and medicine. The repercussions of such technology are unknown, but it is possible, for example, to envision systems that replace not only human experts, but hundreds of thousands of well-paying jobs throughout the economy and around the globe. Virtually any job that now involves answering questions and conducting commercial transactions by telephone will soon be at risk. It is only necessary to consider how quickly ATMs displaced human bank tellers to have an idea of what could happen."

I'm pretty upset about this. I honestly think I ought to sit down calmly, take a stress pill and think things over.

If you can't identify that reference, be worried. Watson could.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The Arab revolution: What should the United States do?

The violent turn of events in both Bahrain and now Libya underscore a grisly truth: It is a long journey from revolution to democracy.

Chatter of instant Facebook and Twitter democracies aside, real revolutions are measured in years and their arrival at democratic outcomes is far from certain; it is often rare. One country's stubborn autocrat is another's murderer. And while there are reformers in the crowd, never underestimate the danger of a mob. So, now that this revolution has shown its dark and dangerous side, what does the United States do?

The answer is to focus on stability first and democracy second. The Obama administration has bungled this test so far. But now that a longer timeline is emerging, it should play for time. It should focus on supporting friendly militaries. It should also support the Arab middle classes, which represent the most untapped human capital and the greatest ability to transition to democracy, even if that takes years. And it will.

Americans may think that U.S. involvement in the Middle East is only about a decade old, sparked by Sept. 11. Nothing could be further from the truth. Since Great Britain's withdrawal from the region in the 1950s, the United States has stepped in to maintain large forces in and around the Mediterranean—recently expanding its presence in Italy—as well as operating in North Africa and the Persian Gulf. The headquarters of the U.S. 5th Fleet in Bahrain is, ironically, a former Royal Navy base.

U.S. taxpayers may also be surprised to learn that they have invested more than \$24 billion in aid into the countries now in turmoil—just in the last decade. Much of that aid has been military in nature, involving equipment, basing, operations, port visits, training, counter-terrorism and intelligence. Right or wrong, this investment is now at risk: \$18 billion in Egypt, \$5 billion in Jordan, \$215 million in Bahrain, \$16 million in Algeria and \$91 million in Tunisia, where this all began.

It may not be entirely coincidental that revolution sweeps the countries the United States is propping up—or it may be that the United States is simply spending the most to prop up the weakest and most corrupt regimes. Regardless, there is a large investment at stake, much of it in the form of military, counter-

terrorism and intelligence.

While the United States has armed the Egyptian military, it also conducts joint exercises with Egypt every other year, code-named Bright Star. Algerians long refused petitions for basing but relented in the last decade to allow aircraft to refuel, ships to visit and submarines to conduct exercises—as well as conducting exercises between its own and U.S. troops, known as Operation Flintlock. Yemen has allowed air strikes by U.S. naval aircraft. Tunisia has even had a joint military commission with the United States.

Besides attempting to salvage this expansive and expensive military investment and stabilize the situation with, hopefully, the intervention of friendly militaries, it is just as important that those militaries be encouraged to intervene on the right side: that of the Arab

It may not be entirely coincidental that revolution sweeps the countries the United States is propping up—or it may be that the United States is simply spending the most to prop up the weakest and most corrupt regimes.

middle class. The militaries and middle classes have something in common: government that fulfills rising expectations, unlike the generation of leaders who rose up as royal or nationalist reactions to colonialism, only to steal back their own countries.

And so, bluntly, it's important to separate the middle class from the mob. Unemployment and skyrocketing food, electricity and housing costs were behind protests in Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt and Iraq. Sectarian competition is behind the trouble in Bahrain. But the Arab middle class is the key. The middle class has swelled in its ranks in much—though not all—of the Arab world. There are exceptions. Yemen is a tribal society, after all, which in its last turmoil descended into 20 years of civil war.

By **RICHARD PARKER**

McClatchy-Tribune Information Services

Richard Parker was the defense correspondent for Knight Ridder Newspapers, the associate publisher of The New Republic and has twice been the visiting professional in journalism at the University of Texas at Austin. Seamus McAfee contributed to this article. They can be reached at info@parker-media.com. They wrote this for McClatchy-Tribune.



Yet in many places, the middle class, along with the military, holds the key to the outcome of this crisis. Its membership became educated, prospered and swelled with broad government control and then saw an immediate end to opportunity because their leaders stole too much—and because economic reforms delivered too little and came too late, as in Egypt. The middle class may be shrinking in the United States, but it has generally grown in the Arab world, constituting 79 percent of the population in 2005—up from 75.5 percent in 1990, according to the Arab Planning Institute in Kuwait. In Algeria, for instance, just 3.8 percent of people live below the poverty line. But in every country, rulers have broken their covenants with the middle class by promising ever more and delivering ever less.

There will be no swift delivery from this period, which will unfold partly as a dream and partly as a nightmare. Bloodshed could go on for years. And yes, it is tiresome for the United States to continue to monitor this stretch of the world, but instead of policing or simply leaping at a liberal panacea, the administration might try to manage instead. That's what superpowers do. They manage chaos.

There is no stopping this revolution; it is the result of years of injustice colliding with inexorable demographic change. But the United States has an interest in stability in the Middle East now and democracy, if possible, over the long term. It cannot dictate either outcome. It can only do what it has always done: try to influence the situation. The Arab militaries and middle classes now hold the key to this dangerous and uncertain future.

The nest-egg myth: Nearly half of today's older Americans receive no income from assets such as stocks and savings accounts

As the debate over the federal deficit heats up, Americans are going to hear a great deal about “greedy geezers” who are supposedly bankrupting the nation with Social Security and Medicare. Politicians will no doubt be more circumspect than former Wyoming Sen. Alan Simpson, who, as the Republican co-chairman of the federal deficit commission, described Social Security as a “milk cow with 310 million tits.”

The myth underlying these attacks (including Simpson's misogynist bovine metaphor) is that most old people don't need their entitlements—that they are affluent pickpockets fleecing younger Americans.

This image of prosperous geezers and crones is just not accurate. The notion of an aging population well prepared to take care of itself—not only in its relatively healthy 60s and 70s, classified by sociologists as the “young old,” but throughout the “old old” 80s and 90s—is a delusion that threatens to undo 75 years of social progress that began when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act in 1935.

No generation stands to lose more from this fantasy than baby boomers, whose oldest members turn 65 this year. Because of financial losses in what will surely be known to history as the Crash of 2008, many boomers—especially older ones with less time to recover—may enter retirement in a worse financial position than their parents. According to a report by the Center for Economic and Policy Research, a liberal Washington think tank, households headed by boomers between the ages of 55 and 65 lost about half of their wealth between 2004 and 2009 as a result of the real estate collapse and the shrinkage of 401(k) retirement accounts. Americans at the lower end of the socioeconomic scale were the hardest hit, because for most lower- and middle-income families, their homes were their only assets.

Furthermore, only half of working Americans—the wealthier half with employers that match contributions—even have tax-sheltered retirement accounts. The average value of these accounts, by the way, was only about \$45,500 before the crash—hardly a lavish retirement nest egg for boomers expected to live beyond 85 in unprecedented numbers. In just 20 years, the over-85 population is expected to number more than 8.5 million.

The archetype of the greedy geezer is based partly on a misconception about today's oldest Americans: the World War II

generation. The frequently repeated statistic that 75 percent of all assets are owned by people over 65 is utterly misleading, because those assets are held in a minority of very rich hands. Nearly half of older Americans receive no income—none—from assets such as stocks and savings accounts. Of those who do, half receive less than \$2,000 a year.

Three-fourths of those over 65, according to a report by the non-partisan Congressional Research Service, have annual incomes, including Social Security, of less than \$34,000. Furthermore, household income drops precipitously with every decade, and most of the poor in their 80s and 90s are women, who—unless their husbands possessed vast wealth—are very likely to become poorer when they are widowed.

It has long been assumed that boomer women will be in a better economic position than their mothers, because more of them held paying jobs. But that assumption may be a fallacy, given the disappearance of traditional fixed pensions during the last three decades and the interrupted job history of many working mothers, which reduces Social Security income.

One major obstacle to realistic government and individual planning is incessant propaganda, much of it dispensed by boomers themselves, claiming that we are on the threshold of a “new old age” radically different from old age in previous generations. This spirit was embodied by a panel on aging, titled “90 Is the New 50,” at the 2008 World Science Festival held in New York City.

In the “forever young” fantasy, boomers will be immune to the worst vicissitudes of old age thanks to medical breakthroughs and their own clean-living habits. The truth: Half of Americans who live beyond 85 will suffer from dementia, of which Alzheimer's is the leading cause, and half will spend time in a nursing home before they die. One can always hope, as I do, for medical breakthroughs to treat the worst scourges of old age—especially Alzheimer's—but they are more likely to arrive in time for the children or grandchildren of the boomers than for adults already in their 50s and 60s.

Furthermore, hope is not a plan of action. The saving of Social Security and Medicare for the boomer generation—and generations to follow—will require nothing less than a reworking of the intergenerational contract on which these programs were based. We now have a system (regardless of the ultimate fate

By **SUSAN JACOBY**

Los Angeles Times

Susan Jacoby is the author of Never Say Die: The Myth and Marketing of the New Old Age. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times



of the decidedly modest health care reform law in the courts) in which people under 65 spend ever-increasing sums on private health insurance and only the old enjoy government-financed care. At the height of the debate in 2009, a national poll showed that two-thirds of Americans over 65 opposed universal health-care—except for themselves.

This does sound like greedy geezers talking, but I suspect that it was fear speaking—the fear that better health care for younger Americans would mean worse care for the old. What's wrong is not that the old have too much access to healthcare but that the young have too little.

The post-1935 intergenerational social contract, which depends on the willingness of young workers to pay for the dependent old, may crumble in the next 20 years unless the healthcare needs of young Americans are also addressed. Reworking the contract, and the programs that depend on it, will require aging boomers to recognize the financial stresses of younger workers, and the young to tell mean-spirited public figures like Simpson that Social Security is not a luxury but a permanent responsibility for all Americans of all generations.






Finally, a decent old age requires more than health care. Both higher taxes and more personal saving will be needed to support longer lives, however unacceptable that dual reality may be to political purveyors of unreason. If we are not going to kill Granny, we must support many more boomer Grannies. Or we can numb our brains with the delusion that 90 really will become the new 50 and that boomers will be able to work (and shop) till they drop.

Then we can just do nothing until time runs out and the reduction of poverty among the old—one of the great accomplishments of America's 20th century—is undone by our feckless fantasies.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

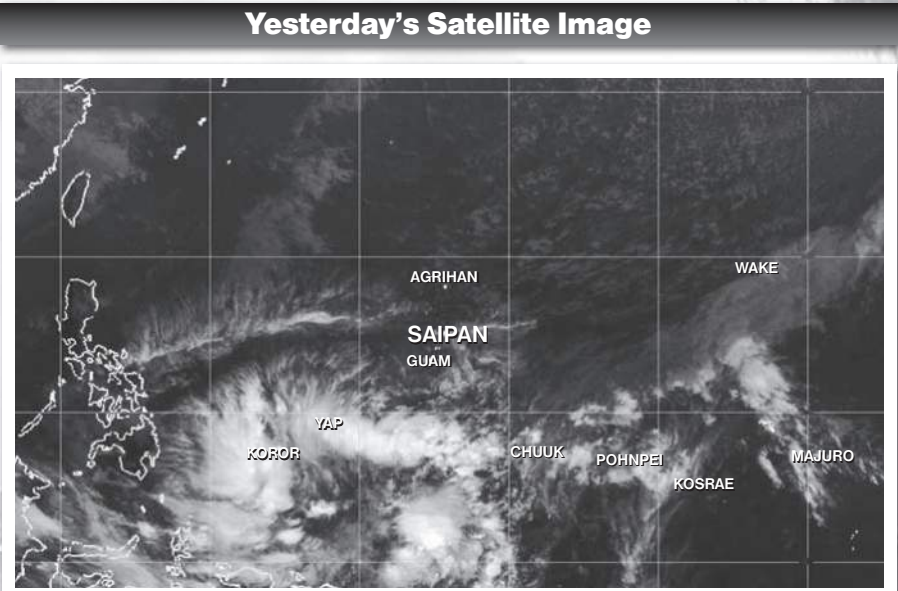
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

| TODAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY |
|---|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph. | Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph. | Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. |
| ▲85° ▼76° | ▲85° ▼76° | ▲85° ▼76° | ▲86° ▼76° | ▲86° ▼76° |

| Micronesia | | | |
|---------------|----------------|-----|-----|
| Guam and Rota | Thundershowers | ▲84 | ▼76 |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | ▲85 | ▼77 |
| Yap | Thunderstorms | ▲84 | ▼77 |
| Chuuk | Showers | ▲83 | ▼77 |
| Pohnpei | Rain | ▲84 | ▼77 |
| Kosrae | Showers | ▲84 | ▼79 |
| Majuro | Showers | ▲84 | ▼77 |

| Around The Globe | | | |
|------------------|----------------|-----|-----|
| Auckland | Sunny | ▲72 | ▼64 |
| Beijing | Ice | ▲38 | ▼25 |
| Hong Kong | Partly Cloudy | ▲68 | ▼62 |
| Honolulu | Partly Cloudy | ▲79 | ▼69 |
| London | Showers | ▲49 | ▼39 |
| Los Angeles | Rain | ▲51 | ▼35 |
| Manila | Thundershowers | ▲86 | ▼73 |
| Melbourne | Showers | ▲75 | ▼60 |
| Miami | Mostly Sunny | ▲83 | ▼64 |
| New York | Partly Cloudy | ▲40 | ▼33 |
| Osaka | Showers | ▲56 | ▼47 |
| Paris | Rain | ▲50 | ▼42 |
| Pusan | Showers | ▲52 | ▼44 |
| Rome | Mostly Sunny | ▲52 | ▼34 |
| Salem | Mostly Sunny | ▲40 | ▼32 |
| San Francisco | Ice | ▲47 | ▼37 |
| Seoul | Showers | ▲42 | ▼32 |
| Tokyo | Mostly Cloudy | ▲56 | ▼43 |
| Washington, DC | Partly Cloudy | ▲48 | ▼38 |

| Tides | | | |
|---------------|-------|------------|----------|
| Saipan Harbor | | | |
| 3:52 AM | Today | High Tide: | 1.5 Feet |
| 8:12 AM | Today | Low Tide: | 1.3 Feet |
| 1:16 PM | Today | High Tide: | 1.8 Feet |
| 9:23 PM | Today | Low Tide: | 0.1 Feet |



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from 6N130E to a circulation centered southeast of Yap near 5N141E then turns southeastward to end at EQ148E. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the trough and circulation are found South of Yap and just east of Koror between 8N and 4N from 135E to 143E. West winds converging south of the trough axis are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 100 miles of a line from 4N130E to 1N140E. Scattered showers and few thunderstorms are found southwest of Chuuk between 7N and the equator from 144E to 151E. A cold front runs southwestward from west of Midway island at 25N178E to 14N154E then continues as a shear line to end north of Koror at 12N135E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are occurring along and up to 250 miles northwest of the cold front. Cloudiness and patchy showers are found along and up to 150 miles northwest of the shear line. A surface trough stretches northeastward from 6N156E to 14N164E. Scattered showers are located over Pohnpei within 100 miles of the trough axis.

| Sunrise/Sunset | | | Moonrise/Moonset | | |
|----------------|---------|---------|------------------|---------|----------|
| Today | 6:36 AM | 6:24 PM | Today | 1:18 AM | 12:47 PM |
| Sunday | 6:36 AM | 6:24 PM | Sunday | 2:12 AM | 1:42 PM |
| Monday | 6:35 AM | 6:24 PM | Monday | 3:03 AM | 2:37 PM |
| Tuesday | 6:35 AM | 6:25 PM | Tuesday | 3:49 AM | 3:29 PM |
| Wednesday | 6:34 AM | 6:25 PM | Wednesday | 4:32 AM | 4:19 PM |

| FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010 | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------|----------|-----------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------|---------|-----------|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| DEPARTURES | | | | | | ARRIVALS | | | | | |
| SAIPAN-GUAM | | | | | | GUAM-SAIPAN | | | | | |
| C09317 | 4:25am | 5:15am | Daily | | | C09316 | 2:45am | 3:35am | Daily | | |
| C09313 | 7:55am | 8:45am | 3, 6 | | | C09596 | 6:35am | 7:25am | 3, 6 | | |
| C09313 | 8:30am | 9:20am | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 | | | C09596 | 7:00am | 7:50am | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 | | |
| C09601 | 12:10pm | 1:00pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 | | | C09600 | 10:05am | 10:55am | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 | | |
| C09603 | 3:05pm | 3:55pm | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 | | | C09602 | 1:40pm | 2:30pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 | | |
| C09605 | 6:20pm | 7:10pm | Daily | | | C09604 | 5:00pm | 5:50pm | Daily | | |
| C09599 | 9:30pm | 10:20pm | Daily | | | C09606 | 8:00pm | 8:50pm | Daily | | |
| SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) | | | | | | NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN | | | | | |
| DL287 | 6:10am | 8:45am | Daily | | | DL298 | 10:25am | 3:05pm | Daily | | |
| DL285 | 6:40am | 9:15am | 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 | | | DL286 | 7:45pm | 12:20am+1 | 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 | | |
| DL297 | 4:35pm | 7:15pm | Daily | | | DL288 | 8:00pm | 12:30am+1 | Daily | | |
| SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) | | | | | | OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN | | | | | |
| OZ119 | 4:00am | 6:40am | Daily | | | OZ120 | 9:50am | 2:20am+1 | Daily | | |
| SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) | | | | | | BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN | | | | | |
| OZ608 | 3:20am | 6:50am | 1, 4, 5, 7 | | | OZ607 | 9:10pm | 2:20am+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 | | |
| SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) | | | | | | SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN | | | | | |
| OZ606 | 2:10am | 6:00am | 1 | | | OZ603 | 9:00am | 2:20pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 | | |
| OZ606 | 2:40am | 6:30am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 | | | OZ120 | 7:10pm | 2:20am+1 | Daily via KIX | | |
| OZ604 | 3:20pm | 7:00pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 | | | OZ605 | 7:40pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 | | |
| OZ119 | 4:00am | 11:25am | Daily via KIX | | | OZ605 | 8:10pm | 1:30am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 | | |
| SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) | | | | | | SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN | | | | | |
| FM844 | 2:50am | 5:40am | 2, 6 | | | FM843 | 7:15pm | 1:50am+1 | 1, 5 | | |
| SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) | | | | | | BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN | | | | | |
| CA988 | 3:15am | 6:55am | 1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only | | | CA987 | 6:40pm | 1:55am+1 | 4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only | | |
| SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) | | | | | | MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN | | | | | |
| OZ606/701 | 2:10am | 11:50am | 1 via ICN | | | OZ704/603 | 12:10am | 2:20pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN | | |
| OZ606/701 | 2:40am | 11:50am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN | | | OZ716/603 | 12:30am | 2:20pm | 4, 6 via ICN | | |
| C09317/891 | 4:25am | 9:45am | 3, 6 via GUM | | | DL172/286 | 8:05am | 12:20am+1 | 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 | | |
| DL285/173 | 6:40am | 10:15pm | 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT | | | C0890/9606 | 10:55am | 8:50pm | 3, 6 via GUM | | |
| C09313/933 | 7:55am | 9:25pm | 3 via GUM | | | OZ702/605 | 1:10pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 via ICN | | |
| C09313/893 | 7:55am | 11:00pm | 3 via GUM-Palau | | | OZ702/605 | 1:10pm | 1:30am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN | | |
| C09603/933 | 3:05pm | 9:25pm | 5 via GUM | | | PR110/C09596 | 10:15pm | 7:25am+1 | 6 via GUM | | |
| C09603/893 | 3:05pm | 11:00pm | 5 via GUM-Palau | | | PR110/C09596 | 10:15pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM | | |
| OZ604/703 | 3:20pm | 11:00pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 ICN | | | C0892/9596 | 10:25pm | 7:25am+1 | 3 via GUM-Palau | | |
| OZ604/715 | 3:20pm | 11:30pm | 7 | | | C0892/9596 | 10:25pm | 7:50am+1 | 5 via GUM-Palau | | |
| C09605/933 | 6:20pm | 9:40pm | 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM | | | C0934/9596 | 11:10pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 2, 7 via GUM | | |
| C09599/PR111 | 9:30pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM | | | C0934/9596 | 11:25pm | 7:50am+1 | 4 via GUM | | |
| SAIPAN-HONG KONG | | | | | | HONG KONG-SAIPAN | | | | | |
| OZ606/721 | 2:10am | 12:00pm | 1 via ICN | | | OZ724/603 | 12:30am | 2:20pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN | | |
| OZ606/721 | 2:40am | 12:00pm | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN | | | OZ750/603 | 1:00am | 2:20pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN | | |
| C09603/909 | 3:05pm | 10:25pm | 1, 5 via GUM | | | OZ722/605 | 1:30pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 via ICN | | |
| OZ604/723 | 3:20pm | 10:35pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN | | | OZ722/605 | 1:30pm | 1:30am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN | | |
| OZ604/749 | 3:20pm | 11:00pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN | | | C0910/9596 | 11:15pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 5 via GUM | | |
| Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.) | | | | | | | | | | | |

| FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|-------|-------|-----------|---------------|--|--|-------|-------|-----------|
| Airline | | | ETD | ETA | Frequency | Airline | | | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
| Guam-Rota | | | | | | Saipan-Rota | | | | | |
| FRE 100 | | | 7:30 | 8:00 | Daily | FRE 113 | | | 11:40 | 11:50 | Daily |
| Rota-Saipan | | | | | | Saipan-Rota | | | | | |
| FRE 100 | | | 8:20 | 8:50 | Daily | FRE 115 | | | 13:00 | 13:10 | Daily |
| Guam-Rota | | | | | | Saipan-Rota | | | | | |
| FRE 300 | | | 17:00 | 17:30 | Daily | FRE 117 | | | 14:30 | 14:40 | Daily |
| Rota-Saipan | | | | | | Saipan-Rota | | | | | |
| FRE 100 | | | 17:50 | 18:20 | Daily | FRE 119 | | | 16:00 | 16:10 | Daily |
| Saipan-Rota | | | | | | Saipan-Rota | | | | | |
| FRE 200 | | | 9:30 | 10:00 | Daily | FRE 121 | | | 16:40 | 16:50 | Daily |
| Rota-Guam | | | | | | Saipan-Rota | | | | | |
| FRE 400 | | | 18:55 | 19:25 | Daily | FRE 123 | | | 17:40 | 17:50 | Daily |
| Saipan-Rota | | | | | | Saipan-Rota | | | | | |
| FRE 400 | | | 19:40 | 20:10 | Daily | FRE 125 | | | 18:30 | 18:40 | Daily |
| Rota-Guam | | | | | | Saipan-Rota | | | | | |
| FRE 400 | | | 19:40 | 20:10 | Daily | Saipan-Rota | | | | | |
| Saipan-Tinian | | | | | | Tinian-Saipan | | | | | |
| FRE 101 | | | 6:45 | 6:55 | Daily | FRE 102 | | | 7:05 | 7:15 | Daily |
| FRE 103 | | | 7:30 | 7:40 | Daily | FRE 104 | | | 7:50 | 8:00 | Daily |
| FRE 105 | | | 8:00 | 8:10 | Daily | FRE 106 | | | 8:20 | 8:30 | Daily |
| FRE 107 | | | 8:40 | 8:50 | Daily | FRE 108 | | | 9:00 | 9:10 | Daily |
| FRE 109 | | | 9:10 | 9:20 | Daily | FRE 110 | | | 10:00 | 10:10 | Daily |
| FRE 111 | | | 10:45 | 10:55 | Daily | FRE 112 | | | 11:05 | 11:15 | Daily |
| Saipan-Tinian | | | | | | Tinian-Saipan | | | | | |
| FRE 101 | | | 6:45 | 6:55 | Daily | FRE 114 | | | 12:00 | 12:10 | Daily |
| FRE 103 | | | 7:30 | 7:40 | Daily | FRE 116 | | | 13:30 | 13:40 | Daily |
| FRE 105 | | | 8:00 | 8:10 | Daily | FRE 118 | | | 14:50 | 15:00 | Daily |
| FRE 107 | | | 8:40 | 8:50 | Daily | FRE 120 | | | 16:20 | 16:30 | Daily |
| FRE 109 | | | 9:10 | 9:20 | Daily | FRE 122 | | | 17:00 | 17:10 | Daily |
| FRE 111 | | | 10:45 | 10:55 | Daily | FRE 124 | | | 18:05 | 18:15 | Daily |
| Saipan-Tinian | | | | | | Tinian-Saipan | | | | | |
| FRE 101 | | | 6:45 | 6:55 | Daily | FRE 126 | | | 18:50 | 19:00 | Daily |

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 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
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Nation

Throngs view space shuttle Discovery's last launch

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—Discovery, the world's most traveled spaceship, thundered into orbit for the final time Thursday, heading toward the International Space Station on a journey that marks the beginning of the end of the shuttle era.

The six astronauts on board, all experienced space fliers, were thrilled to be on their way after a delay of nearly four months for fuel tank repairs. But it puts Discovery on the cusp of retirement when it returns in 11 days and eventually heads to a museum.

"Discovery now making one last reach for the stars," the Mission Control commentator said once the shuttle cleared the launch tower.

Discovery is the oldest of NASA's three surviving space shuttles and the first to be decommissioned this year. Two missions remain, first by Atlantis and then Endeavour, to end the 30-year program.

It was Discovery's 39th launch and the 133rd shuttle mission overall.

There were several tense minutes just before liftoff when an Air Force computer problem popped up and threatened to halt everything. The issue was resolved and Discovery blasted off three minutes late, with just two seconds to spare.

"Great way to go out," said launch director Mike Leinbach. Launching late in the window like that "probably makes it a little bit more sweet."

"I would say we scripted it that way," added Mike Moses, chairman of the mission management team, "but I could use a little less heart palpitations in the final couple seconds of the countdown."

As the final minutes ticked away, commander Steven Lindsey thanked everyone for the work in getting Discovery ready.

"And for those watching," he called out, "get ready to witness the majesty and the power of Discovery as she lifts off one final time."

Emotions ran high as the shuttle

rocketed off its seaside pad into a late afternoon clear blue sky, and arced out over the Atlantic on its farewell flight. Discovery will reach the space station Saturday, delivering a small chamber full of supplies and an experimental humanoid robot.

"Look forward to having company here on ISS in a couple days," station commander Scott Kelly said in a Twitter message.

The orbiting lab was soaring over the

South Pacific when Discovery took off.

On-board TV cameras showed some pieces of foam insulation breaking off the shuttle's external fuel tank four minutes into the flight, more than usual in fact. But it shouldn't pose any safety concerns because it was late enough after liftoff, officials said.

NASA is under presidential direction to retire the shuttle fleet this summer, let private companies take over trips to orbit and focus on getting astronauts to asteroids and Mars.

An estimated 40,000 guests gathered at Kennedy Space Center to witness history in the making, including a small delegation from Congress and Florida's new Gov. Rick Scott. Discovery frenzy took over not only the launch site, but neighboring towns.

Roads leading to the launching site were jammed with cars parked two and three deep; recreational vehicles snagged prime viewing spots along the Banana River well before dawn. Businesses and governments joined in, their signs offering words of encouragement. "The heavens await Discovery," a Cocoa Beach church proclaimed. Groceries stocked up on extra red, white and blue cakes with shuttle pictures. Stores ran out of camera batteries.

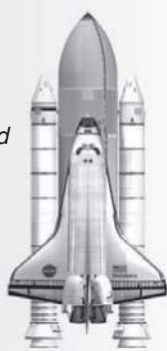
The launch team also got into the act. A competition was held to craft the departing salutation from Launch Control: "The final liftoff of Discovery, a tribute to the dedication, hard work and pride of America's space shuttle team." Kennedy's public affairs office normally comes up with the parting line. Souvenir photos of Discovery were set aside for controllers in the firing room. Many posed for group shots.

Lindsey and his crew paused to take in the significance of it all, before boarding Discovery. They embraced in a group hug at the base of the launch pad.

Unlike the first try back in November, no hydrogen gas leaked during Thursday's fueling.

Shuttle mission

Originally scheduled for November, this will be Discovery's last flight as the shuttle program winds down.



Scheduled length

11-day mission; two scheduled spacewalks

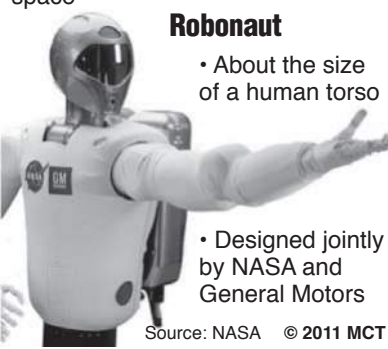
Worth the wait

- Delayed after leaks were found in the external fuel tank
- Engineers found ways to fix cracks in January

Mission objectives

- Six astronauts will deliver the Permanent Multipurpose Module (PMM) to the International Space Station
- The PMM also carries Robonaut 2, the first human-like robot in space

Robonaut



- About the size of a human torso

- Designed jointly by NASA and General Motors

Source: NASA © 2011 MCT

Sources: Senate Dems consider spending cuts

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senate Democrats signaled Thursday they will call for spending cuts as part of legislation to keep the government in operation through the end of the fiscal year, accepting a bedrock Republican demand for immediate reductions and easing the threat of a March 4 shutdown of federal programs and services.

No decisions have been made on what size cuts to include in legislation expected on the Senate floor next week, these officials said, adding that \$8.5 billion in funding for previously approved congressionally-approved earmark projects is on the chopping block. In addition, aides are reviewing \$24.7 billion worth of proposals President Barack Obama recently made to reduce or eliminate programs beginning in 2012, to see whether any should be accelerated.

One obvious candidate for elimination is an alternative engine for the Pentagon's next-generation fighter aircraft, a program that the White House and Defense Secretary Robert Gates

oppose and that the House recently voted to jettison at a savings of about \$450 million.

The disclosure comes as the two parties maneuver for position in advance of March 4, when funding authority expires for much of the government. Leaders in both parties say they hope no shutdown occurs. Each also accuses the other of seeking one, and hopes to avoid political blame if it occurs.

The House passed legislation last week to extend funding authority through the Sept. 30 end of the fiscal year, including \$61 billion in spending cuts and a blockade on selected federal regulations on some polluters, large Internet providers and other industries. The bill also blocks the use of federal funds to implement the year-old health care law, a key priority of the 87-member class of first-term Republicans elected last fall with the support of tea party activists.

In response, congressional Democrats accused the GOP of itching for a shutdown, but the White House has

been less accusatory. While Obama issued a veto threat against the House bill, aides also emphasized that he wants to work with lawmakers in both parties to cut federal deficits that are now at record levels.

The debate over spending has grown increasingly tangled in recent days, with lawmakers talking of the possible need for a short-term spending bill of a few weeks in duration that would prevent a shutdown while talks continue on a seven-month measure needed to carry through to the end of the fiscal year ending Sept. 30. Democrats stressed they were not agreeing to cut spending in any shorter-term bill.

Even so, a spokesman for House Speaker John Boehner, Michael Steel, said the latest move by Democrats showed they were "making progress toward our goal of cutting government spending to help the private sector create jobs." He called on them to follow up by agreeing to support a short-term bill with spending cuts "rather than shutting down the government."

NASA also was confident no cracks would develop in the external fuel tank; nothing serious was spotted during the final checks at the pad. Both problems cropped up during the initial countdown in early November, and the

repairs took almost four months. The cracks in the midsection of the tank, which holds instruments but no fuel, could have been dangerous.

The lengthy postponement kept one of the original crew from flying.

Troopers sent to homes of some Wisconsin Democrats

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—Wisconsin state troopers were dispatched Thursday to the doorsteps of some of the AWOL Democratic senators in hopes of finding at least one who would come back to allow a vote on a measure to curb the power of public-employee unions.

The stepped-up tactic ordered by the Republican head of the Senate came amid reports that at least a few of the missing senators were returning home at night to pick up clothes, food and other necessities, before rejoining their colleagues in Illinois.

Meanwhile, the state Assembly appeared close to voting on the bill after more than two days of filibustering.

Democrats agreed before dawn Thursday to limit the remaining number of amendments they offer and the time they devote to each one. More than 12 hours after the agreement was announced, Republicans voted to cut off discussion on all amendments. Democrats planned to spend several more hours railing against the measure that Gov. Scott Walker insists is necessary to ease the state's budget woes and avoid mass layoffs.

Democrats urged Republicans to

accept a compromise that would keep collective bargaining intact.

"We all know there is an impasse. There is one person who can end this impasse and that is Gov. Walker," said Democratic Assembly Leader Peter Barca as debate reached its 53rd hour. "This state has never been more divided in the last 25 years. ... It's the governor's job to unify the state."

But Republicans summarily rejected every Democratic amendment in the marathon session, which unfolded as grand political theater. Exhausted lawmakers limped around the chamber, rubbing their eyes and yawning as Wednesday dragged into Thursday. Around midnight, Rep. Dean Kaufert, a Republican from Neenah, accused Democrats of putting on a show for the protesters. Democrats leaped up and started shouting.

"I'm sorry if democracy is a little inconvenient, and you had to stay up two nights in a row," Pocan said. "Is this inconvenient? Hell, yeah, it's inconvenient! But we're going to be heard!"

Democrats, who are in the minority, don't have the votes to stop the bill once the vote occurs.

ACROSS THE NATION

Saudi man charged with plotting terrorist attack

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP)—A college student from Saudi Arabia who studied chemical engineering in Texas bought explosive chemicals online as part of a plan to hide bomb materials inside dolls and baby carriages to blow up dams, nuclear plants or the Dallas home of former President George W. Bush, the Justice Department said Thursday. "After mastering the English language, learning how to build explosives and continuous planning to target the infidel Americans, it is time for jihad," or holy war, Khalid Ali-M Aldawsari wrote in his private journal, according to court documents. The 20-year-old Aldawsari wrote that he was planning an attack in the United States for years, even before coming to the U.S. on a scholarship. He said he was influenced by Osama bin Laden's speeches and that he bemoaned the plight of Muslims.

Tweeter pretending to be Rahm Emanuel disappears

CHICAGO (AP)—Rahm Emanuel complained that he didn't know it was OK to bring a ventriloquist's dummy to a debate. He marveled at a tiny model of Tokyo somebody gave him and couldn't wait to crush

it while wearing a Godzilla suit. He even described the time those AWOL Wisconsin lawmakers were tossed down a water slide by David Axelrod, political adviser to President Barack Obama. All right, it wasn't THAT Rahm Emanuel, the one elected mayor of Chicago on Tuesday. It was a mystery tweeter whose obscenity-laced comments during the mayoral race were so popular they attracted 38,000 followers.

Fire at Houston daycare center kills 3, injures 4

HOUSTON (AP)—A kitchen fire filled a home daycare center with smoke on Thursday, killing three children and injuring four others. Firefighters ran with babies and small children in their arms to nearby ambulances on the crowded street, a fire official said. All seven children in Jackie's Child Care were taken to hospitals, said Rick Flanagan, Houston Fire Department's executive assistant chief. They ranged in age from 18 months to 3 years old, officials said. Neighbor Michael McAndrews said he saw "smoke billowing out of the house and firemen up on the roof, trying to make a hole." Around front, firefighters were carrying children out of the smoke-filled house, then performing CPR in the yard.

Asia

New Zealand quake toll rises to 113 dead

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (AP)—Relatives of people still missing three days after an earthquake shattered the New Zealand city of Christchurch arrived Friday from several countries to join an anxious vigil for news that looked increasingly likely to be grim.

The official death toll continued to climb, to 113, and officials said rescue teams had pulled nothing but bodies from the rubble of collapsed buildings for 48 hours. Foreign Minister Murray McCully said the government was preparing to give family members from several countries some bad news.

An English language school was in one of the hardest-hit buildings, the CTV office block, and students from Japan, China, the Philippines and other nations are believed to be among those inside when it collapsed. Police say up to 120 bodies are still inside and that no one is expected to have survived.

Many relatives of the missing arrived at Christchurch airport on Friday, including

about 20 from Japan, who were quickly whisked onto a bus by embassy officials.

In the arrivals hall, Danny Campos, 27, waited for his uncle's flight from Australia. The family is original from Peru and Campos' aunt, Elsa Torres, was a translator at the language school and is among the missing.

We're "hoping that she's alive, but unfortunately, we just have to sit down and wait," he said.

Officials insisted that the massive effort involving more than 700 specialist teams from New Zealand and a host of other countries was a search and rescue operation, though they conceded it has turned more to the recovery of bodies.

"We are still hopeful that there still may be people rescued but it's getting less and less likely," Civil Defense Minister John Carter told reporters.

Work teams on Friday began gingerly picking through the piles of crumbled stone of the iconic Christchurch Cathedral, where the spire tower collapsed

and where officials have said up to 22 bodies may lay entombed. The Christchurch City Council said workers started removing loose masonry from the site to allow recovery teams in to retrieve the bodies.

Police superintendent David Cliff said Friday morning that the latest count of bodies at a special morgue set up to deal with the dead was 113. With 228 people listed as missing, the toll of fatalities was still expected to rise.

Mayor Bob Parker said 70 people had been rescued.

Parker said about half the city of 350,000 had water that might be contaminated and the other half had none, and urged all to take precautions.

"It's really important that if your water is coming through the tap or is still coming in a container that that water is boiled," he said.

Power supplies also were gradually being restored. Residents have been urged to stay near home to stay out of the way of recovery workers and avoid shaky buildings.

Chinese official urges struggle against Dalai Lama

BEIJING (AP)—A top Chinese Communist Party official has called for a renewed struggle against the Dalai Lama's influence, as well as strengthened controls over Tibetan Buddhism, state media reported Friday.

Jia Qinglin's comments come weeks ahead of the third anniversary of the most widespread uprising against Chinese rule by Tibetans in decades.

China blamed followers of the exiled Dalai Lama for fomenting the disturbances on March 14, 2008, including a riot in Tibet's capital, Lhasa, that left 22 people dead.

The Dalai Lama, who heads the self-declared Tibetan government-in-exile in India, has denied the charge.

"We must deepen the fight against the Dalai Lama clique, more circumspectly carry out each task in maintaining stability and do a solid job in regards to Tibetan Buddhism," Jia was quoted by the official Xinhua News Agency as telling party officials at a meeting Thursday.

Officials must "create a positive environment for development" in Tibet and Tibetan regions of four neighboring provinces, said Jia, the ruling Communist Party's fourth-highest ranking official.

Jia's remarks reflect China's two-pronged approach toward Tibet that combines pumping in funds to boost incomes while tightening controls over religious and political dissent.

The Dalai Lama, who fled

Tibet amid an abortive uprising against Chinese rule in 1958, remains deeply revered among many Tibetans, despite Beijing's decades-long campaign to vilify him and undermine his influence. Successive rounds of talks between Chinese officials and representatives of the Buddhist leader have made no apparent progress toward bringing the sides together.

Beijing accuses the Dalai Lama of seeking to separate Tibet from China, despite his claims to be working only for a high degree of autonomy under Chinese rule.

China says Tibet has been part of its territory for at least four centuries, while many Tibetans say they were effectively independent for most of that time.

Japan began a census in 1920, said Keiko Nozaki, an official at the internal affairs ministry, which released the once-in-five-years census data. "The weak population growth was mainly due to Japan's very low birthrates," Nozaki said. While the census showed marginal population growth, Japan's population has continued to decline since 2007, the ministry said.

Thai prime minister admits he's also British

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's prime minister has a confession to make: He is also British. Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva publicly acknowledged his dual nationality Thursday for the first time during a debate in Parliament. Abhisit automatically holds British citizenship because he was born in Newcastle to parents from a well-to-do Bangkok family. He would have to specifically renounce it to lose it. Abhisit's political foes have highlighted the matter. They claim that as a British citizen, he can be sued in the International Criminal Court over alleged abuses during his administration's crackdown on anti-government protests last year.

World

Gadhafi forces strike back at Libya uprising

BENGHAZI, Libya (AP)—Foreign mercenaries and Libyan militiamen loyal to Moammar Gadhafi tried to roll back the uprising against his rule that has advanced closer to his stronghold in Tripoli, attacking two nearby cities in battles that killed at least 17 people. But rebels made new gains, seizing a military air base, as Gadhafi blamed Osama bin Laden for the upheaval.

The worse bloodshed was in Zawiya, 30 miles (50 kilometers) west of the capital Tripoli. An army unit loyal to Gadhafi opened fire with automatic weapons on a mosque where residents—some armed with hunting rifles for protection—have been holding a sit-in to support protesters in the capital, a witness said.

The troops blasted the mosque's minaret with an anti-aircraft gun. A doctor at a field clinic set up at the mosque said he saw the bodies of 10 dead, shot in the head and chest, as well as around 150 wounded. A Libyan news website, Qureyna, put the death toll at 23 and said many of the wounded could not reach hospitals because of shooting by "security forces and mercenaries."

A day earlier, an envoy from Gadhafi had come to the city from Tripoli and warned the protesters: "Either leave or you will see a massacre," the witness said. On Tuesday night, Gadhafi himself called on his supporters to hunt down opponents in their homes.

Zawiya, a key city close to an oil port and refineries, is the nearest population center to Tripoli to fall into the hands of the anti-Gadhafi rebellion that began Feb. 15. Hundreds have died in the unrest.

Most of the eastern half of Libya has already broken away, and diplomats, ministers and even a high-ranking

cousin have abandoned Gadhafi, who has ruled Libya for 41 years. He is still believed to be firmly in control only of the capital, some towns around it, the far desert south and parts of Libya's sparsely populated center.

Gadhafi's crackdown has been the harshest by any Arab leader in the wave of protests that has swept the Middle East the past month, toppling the presidents of Libya's neighbors—Egypt and Tunisia. The New York-based Human Rights Watch has put the death toll in Libya at nearly 300, according to a partial count. Italy's Foreign Minister Franco Frattini said estimates of some 1,000 people killed were "credible."



The upheaval in the OPEC nation has taken most of Libya's oil production of 1.6 million barrels a day off the market, and crude prices have jumped 20 percent to two-year highs in just a week—reaching \$99.77 per barrel in afternoon trading in New York and \$114.20 in London on Thursday. Most of the oil goes to Europe.

Hours after the attack in Zawiya, Gadhafi called in to state TV and in a rambling speech expressed condolences for the dead but then angrily scolded the city's residents for siding with the uprising.

He blamed the revolt on bin Laden and teenagers hopped up on hallucinogenic pills given to them "in their coffee with milk, like Nescafe."

"Shame on you, people of Zawiya, control your children," he said, addressing residents of the city outside Tripoli where the mosque attack took place. "They are loyal to bin Laden," he said of those involved in the uprising. "What do you have to do with bin Laden, people of Zawiya? They are exploiting young people ... I insist it is bin Laden."

Gadhafi quickly condemned the Sept. 11 attacks that bin Laden masterminded, saying: "We have never seen such a horrific and terrifying act performed in such a exhibitionist manner." He cracked down on his country's Muslim militants, including those linked to al-Qaida. But in 2009, he said bin Laden had shown signs that he is open to dialogue and recommended that President Barack

Obama seek an opening with the terrorist leader.

Thousands massed in Zawiya's main Martyrs Square by the Souq Mosque after the attack, shouting for Gadhafi to "leave, leave," the witness said. "People came to send a clear message: We are not afraid of death or your bullets," he said.

In the latest blow to the Libyan leader, a cousin who is one of his closest aides, Ahmed Gadhaf al-Dam, announced that he has defected to Egypt in protest against the regime's bloody crackdown, denouncing what he called "grave violations to human rights and human and international laws."

Gadhaf al-Dam is one of the highest level defections to hit the regime so far, after many ambassadors around the world, the justice minister and the interior minister all sided with the protesters. Gadhaf al-Dam belonged to Gadhafi's inner circle, served as his liaison with Egypt and frequently appeared by his side.

The regime's other attempt to take back lost territory came east of Tripoli. Pro-Gadhafi militiamen—a mix of Libyans and foreign mercenaries—assaulted a small airport outside Libya's third largest city, Misrata, about 120 miles (200 kilometers) from the capital.

Militiamen with rocket-propelled grenades and mortars barraged a line of government opponents who were guarding the airport, some armed with rifles, said one of the rebels who was involved in the battle.

ASIAN BRIEFS

4 killed in an attack on NATO convoy in Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Militants in Pakistan have attacked tankers bringing fuel to NATO forces in Afghanistan, killing four people. The attack early Friday took place close to the city of Peshawar in the northwest of the country. Police officer Liaquat Ali Khan says around 15 militants armed with rockets carried out the attack. At least 12 tankers parked in a roadside terminal were set alight. He says the dead were drivers or their assistants. Islamist militants and criminals often attack trucks carrying supplies for U.S. and NATO troops.

Japan sees slowest population growth since 1920

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's population has grown at the slowest pace since 1920 as the rapidly aging country grapples with extremely low birthrates, a census report showed Friday. Japan, the world's 10th most populated country, said its population stood at 128.05 million as of October 2010, up 0.2 percent from the previous census in 2005. The figure marked the slowest population growth since

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, February 26, 2011

'Lessons of EDSA are also lessons for OFWs in CNMI'

» Filipinos in the CNMI mark 25th anniversary of People Power Revolution

Photos and Text By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Twenty-five years since ousting the Marcos dictatorship in a peaceful uprising that earned the world's admiration, the Philippines' People Power Revolution in 1986 remains significant, especially for Filipinos in the Northern Mariana Islands.

"No matter how difficult and uncertain the circumstances, there will always be hope for better conditions, better lives, and a better future. Such is the lesson of EDSA and such is the lesson that OFWs may apply on Saipan [this] 2011," Consul General Medardo Macaraig said.

Macaraig led yesterday's ceremony commemorating the 25th anniversary of the People Power Revolution, which began with the raising of the Philippine flag assisted by administrative officer Jose Sto. Domingo and the singing of the national anthem by finance officer Rowena Tolosa at the Marianas Business Plaza grounds in Susupe.

Also known as the EDSA Revolution, the People Power Revolution was a four-day series of peaceful revolutions involving prayerful mass street demonstrations along Epifanio Delos Santos Avenue in February 1986 that eventually toppled former President Ferdinand



Consul General Medardo Macaraig, fourth left, and Consul Belinda Ante, third right, are flanked by Philippine Consulate General office staff during the commemoration of the 1986 People Power Revolution's 25th anniversary Friday morning.

Marcos' oppressive regime.

In his remarks, Macaraig noted the similarity between the uncertainty of the plight of Filipino workers in the CNMI and the uncertainty that beleaguered the Philippines before the EDSA Revolution.

Macaraig said unclear immigration status, conflicting labor rules, and less employment opportunities are among issues that concern Filipino workers in the Commonwealth.

"However, as EDSA taught us, Filipino workers and Filipinos in general have remained resilient and optimistic about the future. EDSA taught us that there is always hope but it also teaches that we must control our destiny," he reminded his Filipino audience.

According to Macaraig, EDSA reminds Filipinos worldwide that hope for a better future remains even in the most difficult and uncertain conditions.

"Tayo ay mga Filipino. Ang tagumpay ng EDSA noong 1986 ay isang paalala na tayo ang tunay at tanging lakas ng pagbabago para

sa ikauunlad ng ating minamahal na bansang Pilipinas," said the consul general.

Messages

Yesterday's ceremony was followed by a short program at the Filipino Workers Resource Center where outgoing United Filipino Organization president Olive Yana led the prayer and the reading of messages of President Benigno Aquino III by Consul Belinda Ante and Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo by Sto. Domingo.

Romulo said the EDSA People Power Revolution is a shining example that inspires all nations yearning for freedom as it stands for the triumph of human spirit and love of freedom.

"Its rejection of violence was critically important as it saved the nation from bloodshed that might have unleashed cycles of conflict, which have been the bane of revolutions everywhere," said Romulo.

The son of the late President Corason Cojuangco Aquino and Sen. Be-

See LESSONS on next page



Consul General Medardo Macaraig, center, leads the flag raising ceremony commemorating the 25th anniversary of the EDSA People Power Revolution of 1986 at the Marianas Business Plaza grounds yesterday morning.



Members of the Filipino community led by Consul General Medardo Macaraig and Consul Belinda Ante pose for a group photo after the brief program commemorating the 25th anniversary of the 1986 People Power Revolution yesterday at the Filipino Workers Resource Center.

PRIORITIES OF NEW UFO PRESIDENT

'More active members and more community activities'

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

Promoting active participation among officers and members will be among the priorities for Romeo "Bong" D. Malasarte, who brings years of management experience to the highest position of the umbrella organization of some 30 Filipino groups in the CNMI.

Malasarte, current president of MDX Amateur Radio Club, was elected president of United Filipino Organization during an election held Feb. 20 at the Filcom Pavilion next to the Civic Center basketball court in Susupe.

Other newly elected officers were Hector Sevilla, VP-administration; Paul Madriaga, VP-internal; Bok Enano, VP-external; Jun Liberato, secretary; Yolanda

de Ramos, assistant secretary; Evelyn Deazeta, treasurer; Lyn Dela Cruz, assistant treasurer; Antonio Soriano, auditor; and Charlie Centena, PRO-internal;

The new officers will officially assume their positions following a formal induction on March 19, the venue for which will be announced at a later date.

"As the elected president of UFO, the responsibilities bestowed upon me are very substantial," Malasarte said yesterday. "Considering that I'm also the president of MDX, it will be challenging for me but I vow to continue all the regular activities of the group to the best of my ability."

For years, the UFO has been involved in the CNMI community through various events and activities, kicking off with the group's participation in the

annual Mt. Tapochau trek during Good Friday, *Pistang Pinoy* or Filipino Fiesta, which is the Philippine Independence Day celebration, Fourth of July parade, the annual UFO Inter-Organizational Basketball League, and *Paskong Pinoy* or Filipino Christmas.

Being a UFO officer is something Malasarte is accustomed to since he already served as vice president during the term of Roland Pamintuan.

According to Malasarte, having active officers in an organization is a factor in the success of its activities and encourages the rest of the members to get involved as well.

"Our new batch of officers

looks very promising because the eagerness is there. As I told them during the officers' meeting on Wednesday, *walang iwanan*. It's not about the president alone but it's about each one of us who will all contribute for the good of the group," he said.

Malasarte disclosed that another top priority would be to engage the group in more sports activities that would develop and strengthen camaraderie not only among members but also with other organizations in the community.

"Sports would definitely become an important dynamic during this term as Filipinos are into sports. It would be a great opportunity to build ties

and promote physical activity among members of the group," he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that they are looking into the possibility of coordinating with other sports groups and create another league catering to the youth.

Malasarte, however, noted that a big challenge would be getting enough funding.

"With the hard economic times, financial costs are always a problem. During our first meeting, we've brainstormed about potential fundraising projects and activities and we would certainly work on in our next meetings," he said.

Notwithstanding the financial issue, Malasarte emphasized that as a community group, UFO must take on a more active role in the community by participating in beach cleanups

and the like, which he plans to include as a regular activity for the organization.

"We should patronize worthwhile activities as our way of giving back to the community that has become our home," he said.

The new president maintained that getting inactive members to become involved once again is also of vital importance. "Without members, there can never be an organization," he said.

Whatever challenges that lie ahead would be manageable if all of the members work together, according to Malasarte.

"There should be unity among members. We are a group, and each member must do his or her part for us to achieve our goal. Everyone should contribute so that our efforts will not go to waste," he added.



Malasarte



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Filipinos on Tinian wait to avail of mobile consular services at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

Mobile consular services on Tinian 'a success'

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The first mobile consular services using ePassport technology on Tinian was a success, according to Consul General Medardo Macaraig.

Macaraig disclosed that a total of 119 services were performed during the mission on Feb. 19 to 20 at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

Of the 119 services, 78 were for ePassport applications, 20 for Overseas Workers Welfare Ad-

ministration applications, 11 for the processing of Overseas Employment Certificates, and 10 for notarial and other services.

"The mobile services were conducted in the island of Tinian as flights and travel to and from Saipan have become more

expensive for Filipinos. Further, the forthcoming release of the immigration rules covering transitional workers has also made it necessary to reach out to Filipino workers in these islands to keep their passports up-to-date," said Macaraig.

Since it was their first time to use the ePassport equipment outside the consulate, Macaraig said there were some procedures that were new compared to the desktop equipment.

"The laptop was a bit slower than the desktop, and this was expected," he added.

The consul general expressed his appreciation to Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino general manager Tom Liu for the use of hotel facilities as well as to Fr. Sid Ogomoro of San Jose Parish and Francesca Esguerra for facilitating the information dissemination for Filipinos on Tinian.

Macaraig said they are also set to conduct consular mission at the Rota campus of Northern Marianas College on March 12 and 13.

"As the Rota services will no longer be the first, it would

be smoother," Macaraig told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Macaraig, the main challenge on Rota would be the number of applicants because of the greater distance and travel costs.

He said the early announcement of the mobile services on Rota would help address this challenge as they can submit their applications by mail, fax, or email to enable pre-processing on Saipan.

Passport applicants can download the application form from the Consulate website, www.philippinessaipan.org, and send the accomplished form by fax to 234-1849, email to saipanpcg@pticom.com, or mail to P.O. Box 500731 Saipan, MP 96950 CNMI.

For information, call 234-1848, fax 234-1850 or email saipanpcg@pticom.com.



Officers and members of various Filipino groups pose with Consul General Medardo Macaraig, Fr. Celso Magbanua, Jr., and Consul Belinda Ante after the ceremony celebrating the 25th anniversary of the 1986 EDSA Revolution last Feb. 25.

LESSONS

From Page 12

nigno Aquino Jr., the younger Aquino said Filipinos continue to demonstrate the ideals of unity and patriotism that embody their determination to undertake today's challenges.

"We are moving forward in this era of daylight and hope, and it is incumbent upon each of us to take on the responsibility of realizing our dreams for our beloved country on the straight and righteous path to change," said Aquino.

A video presentation showcasing photographs during the People Power Revolution was also featured during the program. Light refreshments were served for the audience composed of members of Filipino groups.

Other activities

Aside from yesterday's program, Macaraig said the consulate has lined up other activities in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the EDSA revolution.

Macaraig said a Mass will be celebrated as a gratitude for

the miracle of EDSA on Sunday, Feb. 27, which coincides with the enthronement of the San Lorenzo Ruiz image at the Mount Carmel Cathedral.

A free health screening to be conducted by Filipino volunteer nurses, pharmacists, and Hardt Eye Clinic staff is scheduled on March 6 at the ground floor of Marianas Business Plaza.

The consulate will also visit Rota to conduct mobile consular services on March 12 to 13 from 8am to 5pm.

Macaraig said the consulate

will also be open today and on March 20 from 9am to 4pm for consular services for Filipinos on Saipan.

He encouraged all Filipinos in the CNMI who have experiences during the EDSA People Power Revolution of 1986 to write their recollections and reflections to be posted on the consulate's bulletin board and website.

Writeups may be submitted by mail to P.O. Box 500731 Saipan, MP 96950, by fax to 234-1849 or email to saipanpcg@pticom.com.

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Philippine rep gets 18 months jail for drugs in HK

By CYNTHIA BALANA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

HONG KONG—His days as a member of the Philippine House of Representatives are numbered.

Sentenced on Thursday to 18 months in jail in Hong Kong for drug trafficking, Rep. Ronald Singson is preparing to resign his House seat, his father, Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis “Chavit” Singson, said hours after a Hong Kong judge court pronounced the sentence.

Interviewed by the Philippine Daily Inquirer by telephone from Hong Kong, the elder Singson said his son would quit his post as Ilocos Sur’s first district representative.

“He had long thought of resigning,” the governor said. “We are just readying the documents needed.”

The elder Singson said he would personally talk with Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. on his son’s return to the House of Representatives, in which he would make arrangements before resigning.

Singson was meted out a jail term of one year and four months for bringing 6.67 grams of cocaine into the southern Chinese territory on July 11, 2010, and an additional two months for the two tablets of the prohibited narcotic Nitrazepam which he also carried.

In his ruling, which he took 45 minutes to read, Wan Chai District Court Judge Joseph Yau said the prison term should be at least two years and six months but he decided to give a “discount” by giving credit to the congressman’s guilty plea, his “positive character,” his clear criminal record, and his being a member of the House of Representatives.

It was an ironic twist to the political career of the lawmaker who a few years ago filed a bill in the House, denouncing illegal drugs as one of society’s most pernicious evils.

Fall from grace

Yau noted that Singson “has virtually everything that every man would want to have.”

“Being an educated man, he should know very well the harm of illegal drugs and should have sought treatment immediately instead of using the drugs for self-medication,” he stressed.

“It is sad to see a man of the defendant’s background fall from grace.”

Under Hong Kong law, bringing drugs into the territory can be defined as trafficking, regardless of the purpose. The maximum penalty is life imprisonment plus a fine equivalent to about P28 million.

Prosecutors challenged Singson’s claim that the drugs were intended for his own consumption, but Yau sided with Singson, saying he did not think the Philippine lawmaker needed to sell drugs given his wealth from various business interests.

Yau added that Singson did not have any friends in Hong Kong or Macau where he was likely to share the drugs with.

‘It’s evil’

Singson’s face turned red and sad after the judge’s unfavorable statements on the mitigation issue.

As the reading of the sentence came to a close and the judge began to announce the punishment, Singson clasped his hands together and closed his eyes.

All sentences in Hong Kong are normally reduced one-third if one pleads guilty to an offense.



Philippine Rep. Ronald Singson, the son of Luis “Chavit” Singson, a provincial governor in the Philippines, speaks to the media outside the Hong Kong’s District Court, Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2011.

In the sentence, Yau said the amount of drugs was substantial and the issue of drugs for personal consumption was “a very important consideration” in sentencing.

“Trafficking in dangerous drugs is a very serious offense. It’s evil,” the judge said.

He said that while the drugs were intended for personal use, the court also considered the “high risk” of the drugs “falling in the hands of others.”

“Although the defendant did not intend to sell, it’s the view of the court that the cocaine might fall into the hands of other people. The risk is a substantial one. This is a factor that the court will have to consider in determining the sentence,” he said.

‘Daddy, daddy’

Yau rejected the defense argument in Wednesday’s mitigation hearing that Singson’s good educational background and extensive business interests, his family’s support and his having a 2-year-old daughter, Samantha, should make for a lighter sentence.

Shortly after the sentence was read, a Hong Kong policeman immediately took Singson to an adjacent room, while his father, mother and six siblings rushed to a conference room.

In the commotion, daughter Samantha cried, shouting “Daddy, Daddy,” as her grandmother carried her off.

Singson’s girlfriend, movie star Lovi Poe, broke into tears upon hearing the sentence and ran away from the media, saying she had to be at the airport for her flight back home.

Singson was caught with the drugs last year while

transiting through Hong Kong’s airport en route to the gambling enclave of Macau.

Singson previously testified he had used cocaine at various times since 2004, and amphetamines in his 20s.

Family devastated

The elder Singson, his wife Evelyn, and other children attended the sentencing, as did Poe.

The elder Singson said he was told by lawyers that his son would be detained at Hong Kong’s Lai Chi Kok Correctional Institution, where the congressman had spent 40 days before posting bail.

“Nobody is above the law,” the former governor said, holding back his tears, after the hearing. “I’m not surprised but we’re sad.”

“We feel bad about it but it’s expected. I don’t know what the lawyers will do but to me, it’s better not to appeal it,” he added.

Before the sentencing, the Singson family prayed for a suspended sentence, which is tantamount to deportation and being blacklisted in Hong Kong. The defense counsel said it was not possible and instead appealed for less than two years imprisonment during Wednesday’s mitigation hearing.

Evelyn said the family was devastated.

‘Very remorseful’

Minutes before he was sentenced, Singson talked to the media for the last time as a free man. He apologized to the people of Hong Kong for the crime that he had committed.

He also said he was “very remorseful” for what he had done, and that he was paying the price for this.

“I’ve been here in a foreign country for seven months now. I’ve been incarcerated for two months prior to my bail and that’s not easy to go through, this being away from my family, being away from my loved ones,” he said. “There’s nothing I want much more than to have a conclusion to this uneventful part of my life.”

Asked why he decided to plead guilty to trafficking instead of to the lesser offense of illegal possession of drugs, Singson said he could only plead guilty to the offense he was charged with, which was trafficking.

He said he would announce later his decision on whether to resign as a congressman.

“After this, when I get back to the Philippines then I’ll face whatever I will have to face there. I can’t deal with both at the same time because of the uncertainties of the situation here,” he said.

Singson also thanked the Hong Kong courts for their objectivity and said he was “very satisfied” with their professionalism.

“I still hope that God will give me more strength to get through this whatever the outcome will be,” he said.

WB sees Philippines generating more investments

By MICHELLE REMO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The World Bank said the Philippines had the potential to generate more investments this year and in 2012, citing recent reports about improving business sentiment that could fuel economic growth faster than its previous estimates.

The foreign lender has set its growth forecasts for the Philippines at 5 percent this year and 5.4 percent next year, but said these could be exceeded if the improving sentiment would translate to actual investments.

“Strong private investment in the fourth quarter of 2010 and bullish business confidence are encouraging signs that the economy can attract investments needed to boost potential growth and generate more jobs,”

Bert Hofman, country director of the World Bank for the Philippines, said in the bank’s latest “Philippine Quarterly Update” released Wednesday.

Hofman was also quoted as saying in the report that the country was poised to generate more income from exports given continuing efforts to diversify its markets.

The growth forecasts of the World Bank for the Philippines for this year and next year are, however, below the government’s projection of 7 to 8 percent and slower than actual growth last year of 7.3 percent.

The World Bank earlier said that a lower growth this year and in 2012 was likely considering that the robust growth last year was partly due to base effects, as the economy had slowed down in 2009.

But in its latest quarterly report, the bank said there was a chance for the country to grow faster than projected.

Eric Le Borgne, World Bank’s chief economist for the Philippines, said the reforms committed by the Aquino administration could encourage businesses to expand.

“Government efforts to improve the investment climate, tackle corruption and weak governance, along with more credit rating upgrades could boost investor confidence and attract more private investments in the next few years,” Le Borgne said.

The World Bank report said the two industries that could register the fastest growth this year were business process outsourcing and tourism.

The bank said there were risks to the country’s ability to grow faster, including an extremely bad weather condition that could disrupt food supply and increases in the prices of oil and other commodities in the world market.

WHAT WENT BEFORE Singson drug case

MANILA, Philippines—Ilocos Sur Rep. Ronald V. Singson was arrested on July 11, 2010, at the Chek Lap Kok International Airport in Hong Kong with 6.67 grams of cocaine and two tablets of the narcotic Nitrazepam.

The cocaine was hidden in his underpants.

The son of Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis “Chavit” Singson was charged with trafficking in dangerous drugs and detained at the Lai Chi Kok Correctional Institute.

Under Hong Kong law, the mere act of bringing drugs into the territory amounts to trafficking, regardless of whether the drugs are for personal use or for sale or distribution.

Guilty plea

On Aug. 19, 2010, the Tsuen Wan District Court allowed Singson to post bail of HK\$2 million (P11.5 million). The prosecution had rejected two previous bail applications but agreed to the third one after two Hong Kong residents stood as guarantors and agreed to secure a cash surety bond for the congressman.

However, Singson was not allowed to leave the territory and he had to surrender his travel papers and his diplomatic passport. He was also required to report to the North Point police station from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

On Jan. 31, Singson pleaded guilty to trafficking drugs, a charge that carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment and a fine of HK\$5 million (about P28 million).

Plea for leniency

Singson, who was also a concert promoter and owner of a cable music channel, admitted he went on a cocaine binge after attending a Manila concert he produced on July 9 featuring American R&B singer Usher, frustrated by an argument with his girlfriend.

He then decided to join a friend attending a poker tournament in Macau, and was arrested while transiting through Hong Kong.

He told the court he was already undergoing rehabilitation for his drug addiction, and pleaded for leniency.

On Feb. 23, Singson’s lawyer, John Reading, proposed a reduced sentence of less than two years, but the prosecution said it was not comfortable with such a short sentence.

Social evil

Singson is affiliated with the Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats party and is a second-term lawmaker.

In September 2007, he filed House Bill No. 2696, which sought the immediate destruction of confiscated, seized or surrendered dangerous drugs and paraphernalia.

“Dangerous drugs are one of today’s most serious social ills,” Singson said in his bill.

Source: Inquirer Archives,
<http://ronaldsingson.com/>

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Charice shines in Valentine show

By **ANDY BAIS**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Last Sunday, fans of Charice were treated to their idol's Valentine concert on GMA 7. One such fan, young mom, Cookie Dames-Tiglaio, shares her views on the two-hour show: "As soon as the 'little girl with a big voice' started off with 'The Power of Love,' I was entranced. Even my usually quiet 4-year-old daughter clapped! "More than being a really good singer, Charice also wowed the crowd with her comedic impersonations of the Chipmunks and the diminutive Mahal, then showed off her dancing skills.

Rendition

"Her best performances: Her rendition of 'Listen'; a

mashup of her songs, 'Pyramid' and 'Reset,' and her heart-wrenching 'Maghintay Ka Lamang,' which she dedicated to her mom.

"Members of the audience asked questions, which she answered with humor and candor. On the debit side, about 70 percent of the crowd looked like they didn't know what was going on! Charice couldn't have said it better: *'Mas mahirap pasayahin ang Pinoy.'*

"Another downer: Her out-fits weren't the least bit flattering. The only standout was the red dress she wore toward the finale. Other than that, her out-fits were either too short, too long, or so tight that they made her look like a zeppelin about to burst!

"Despite the misses, mabuhay ka, Charice!

Mega finds a new diva

By **BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

After winning the ABS-CBN talent search "Star Power," Angeline Quinto took one of her prizes, a black SUV Hover, on a victory ride to Baclaran Church.

"I wanted to give thanks... kahit madaling araw na," she related.

Angeline bested four other hopefuls (Akiko Solon from Cebu; K-La Rivera, Canada; Krissel Valdez, Davao; and Monica Sacay, Leyte) on finals night at the Ynares Center in Antipolo last Sunday.

She told *Inquirer* that she will offer Thanksgiving Masses in the four churches she frequents—Baclaran, Quiapo, Santa Clara, and Manaoag.

Then she hopes to have her family's Sampaloc home renovated: "I'll build a second floor; our area always gets flooded during the rainy season."

When she sang her winning piece, Jonathan Manalo's "Patuloy ang Pangarap," she

saw her brother Paul cheering in the crowd. "I tried not to look at him; I didn't want to cry. I closed my eyes and thought of my mom."

Blossoming

Mom Sylvia, who's recover-

ing from heart surgery, wasn't allowed by her doctors to watch the finals, either live or on TV. Angeline said she kept the contest a secret from her mom, in fact, until the first taping day.

When she tried out for "Star Power," Angeline recounted, "My waistline was 34 inches. [It's now] 27 inches. I kept exercising, and went on a diet."

Sharon was witness to Angeline's blossoming in the past four months: "Her transformation was remarkable. During the audition, her posture seemed to court defeat. On finals night, she was confident and beautiful."

She advised Angeline to find her own voice, saying, "There are too many singers who want to sound like Regine Velasquez...there should be only one Regine."

Evolving

Angeline, Sharon said, "listened to advice," though the show pushed her out of her comfort zone.

"I wasn't at ease doing dance songs, but the show allowed me to try different things. I'm still [evolving and] I'll always remember what Ma'am Sharon taught me: 'Never to forget where I came from, no matter how far this takes me.'"



ABS-CBN

Angeline Quintos, winner of the ABS-CBN talent search "Star Power."

Missing from the entourage

By **DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

I received the beautiful wedding invitation of John Estrada and Priscilla Meirelles—a booklet containing breathtaking pics of the couple.

It will be a two-day celebration at Thunderbird Poro Point Resort in La Union. On Friday, February 25, there will be a golf tournament for the men and a spa party for the ladies at 11 a.m. The wedding ceremony rehearsal is at 6 p.m. and the rehearsal dinner party at 7 p.m.

The wedding day by the beach is on Saturday, February 26, at 3:30 p.m. The dress code for men is light formal summer jacket or suit and for the ladies, long printed dress.

It would be quite a sight to see Sharon Cuneta and Gabby Concepcion as veil sponsors at the nuptials. Will it be a no-show for Best Man Willie Revillame because of his rift with John, which erupted when the latter accepted ABS-CBN's offer to be one of the hosts of "Happy, Yipee, Yehey"? The other Best Man is Richard Gomez. Conspicuously missing from the wedding entourage is Joey Marquez.

John, Goma and Joey's friendship dates back to their "Palibhasa Lalaki" days. The last time I spoke to Joey about rumors that he and John have a tampuhan due to financial matters after their manager, Tito Douglas Quijano, passed away, he said there's no truth to it.

But why is Joey not part of John's entourage? Is he even invited? Looks like there are many exciting subplots to unfold at the wedding.

Be that as it may, all eyes will be on the fab newlyweds. Let the marriage begin. The in-

trigues can wait.

Football first

It was such a delight to interview Phil Younghusband after his practice with the Azkals at the football field of Corinthian Gardens. "It's good to see you again," said Phil. I was pleasantly surprised that he remembered attending my birthday party three years ago.

What's the official score between him and Angel Locsin? "Nothing is happening yet," he said, chuckling. "It's not true that we went target shooting. No Valentine date, too, because she had work. But I won't stop trying because I really like Angel."

After giving show biz a try via "Celebrity Duets," he finally found his niche in football. Is he still willing to do movies or TV shows? "I'm open to anything but football is my priority."

Happy couple

I bumped into Rachelle Ann Go, Camille Prats and the Prats clan at Singapore's Changi airport en route to Manila. Rachelle's BF, John Prats, wasn't with them since he is not yet allowed to be absent from his new noontime show at ABS-CBN.

It only goes to show how close Shin (Rachelle's nickname) is to John's family. So does that mean they are getting hitched anytime soon? "No marriage plans pa," said Camille. "Marami pa sila gusto ma-achieve sa kanilang careers but they are very supportive of each other."

What does she like in Shin? "She's so simple, down-to-earth at walang kaarte-han," she said. "She understands why minsan bihira sila magkita dahil sa trabaho. They give out positive vibes to each other. Happy couple sila."

Amy Perez hopes ex-hubby files for divorce

TV host Amy Perez says Adi, her 13-year-old son with estranged husband, musician Brix Ferraris, doesn't mind changing his last name.

"He has no objection to being a Castillo," Amy told *Inquirer*. Radio reporter Carlo Castillo is Amy's current boyfriend. They have a 2-year-old son, Sean Kyle.

"Adi already considers Carlo his dad," Amy said during a media gathering for her early morning show "Sapul sa Singko," on TV5.

For the change of surname, Carlo has to legally adopt Adi, Amy said. "We may need his father's consent. One of these days, we will see a lawyer."

She continued: "Carlo and I are hoping [that] Brix will file for divorce, wherever he is now." Amy's earlier plea for annulment was denied by the Supreme Court. Last she heard, Brix was based in California.

Adi last spoke to Brix in 2005, said Amy. Father and son were supposed to go out, but the date was cancelled.

Amy is thankful that Carlo understands what Adi is going through. In fact, she said, Carlo's whole family "accepted me and Adi like their own."

Adi takes the role of big brother to Kyle seriously, the proud mom said. "He is always excited to come home from school to play with Kyle."

Amy and news anchors Erwin Tulfo and Martin Andanar host the segment "Love Hurts" on TV5's morning news magazine show. (*Philippine Daily Inquirer*)

Loren L is lovely even if loveless

By **RICARDO F. LO**
THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Unfazed by her back-breaking job in the Senate, Loren Legarda amazes many people by looking forever young, never mind if she insists that she's "loveless," the rumors linking her to the leader of an Asian country notwithstanding.

So what keeps lovely in lovelessness?

"Yoga," Sen. Loren told a dozen writer-friends whom she treated to a lunch of native goodies at her house in Forbes Park last Monday, her belated blow-out for her 51st birthday last Jan. 28. "I do it every morning," she added and stood up from the *kabisera* of the long dining table to demonstrate how she does it.

From where they were seated, everybody had a good view—through the glass wall, clearly—of the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe colorfully painted on ceramic tiles, cemented on the fence.

"It gives me so much peace looking at it everytime I sit



Sen. Loren Legarda

down for a meal," said Loren who inherited it from her late mom, Bessie Bautista-Legarda, together with more than a dozen other images of the Virgin Mary that light up one whole wall of the dining room.

Saying it was boring (and *nakakasawa*) having lunch or dinner get-together in restaurants, Loren this time decided to serve her friends an all-native menu consisting of her favorite *kinilaw* from her native Malabon ("Where I waded in the floods as a kid"), *kare-kare*, Macau *lumpia*, etc., with assorted fruits

and pastries (also from Malabon) for dessert.

But the most mouth-watering and juiciest items on the menu were the showbiz *tsismis* that were kept off-the-record (those who squealed would be stricken off the guest list for the next *salu-salo*, no kidding!).

Asked how she spent the last Valentine's Day, Loren said, "Alone."

She had a quiet dinner at home with son Lean (other son Lanz is studying in London where he moved from New York) and then she went to bed presumably with the air-con turned off because she easily gets cold. Maybe she needs a human blanket to keep her warm?

"Wala nga, eh," Loren was firm. "Wala talaga."

It was a light and breezy lunch, spiced up with exchanges of morsels about the latest showbiz scandals, and there was no talk about politics at all.

Oh well, like the "usual restaurant food," Loren opted to stay away from politics, at least while she was with her writer-friends.

Maharlika – Opinyon

People Power goes global

In the eyes of life, a century is but a moment. In the context of millions of years of human life, a few centuries are but a page in a thick, unfinished journal. The shift, then, of societal consciousness from strong, centralized rule towards a more participative citizenry in governance is but beginning in the human race.

The term “democracy” has been an over-used yet under-applied system of governance. The most autocratic leaderships today have a penchant for claiming that they are democratic. It seems that admitting dictatorship is out of style while saying it is democratic is cool. The fact is democracy is a fresh emergence in societal life. A cursory review of recorded human history will quickly reveal that the whole pattern of societal governance has been dictatorial. It may have started with people afraid of gods spewing lightning and burning bushes, then those same gods favoring their own humans who demand total obedience in the name of their gods, to pharaohs to emperors to kings to dictators to autocrats and oligarchs. Democracy is a phenomenon, threatening to reverse the pattern of societal governance from time immemorial.

Democracy is not as simple as it seems, the “for the people, of the people, and by the people” saying is one that resonates strongly

with many, but one that is not as easily understood, much less applied. The temptation is the same for a dictator or an ordinary citizen – power. Absolute power corrupts absolutely is another popular saying. Following that principle, it may well be that less power corrupts less—but corrupts nevertheless. And the exercise of democracy thus far seems to me a confirmation that power tempts and manages to corrupt, with little exemption.

It was Ferdinand Marcos who fell in February of 1986 as a result of peaceful but massive protests. The Filipino people confronted their armed forces with flowers and prayers, achieving a miracle that shook the world of strongmen and inspired the advocates of democracy. The reverberation of EDSA People Power upset other apple carts of dictatorship from Easter Europe to South Africa. People discovered their power and began their own exercise of it. After twenty-five years, there are many who complain that the democracy they achieved, or regained, did not translate to economic progress and collective well-being. But to a country, their people have chosen to hold on to democracy rather than return to authoritarian rule.

As experiments with democracy went through their own trials, some severely as in the case of the Philippines with the several coups that greeted a newly recovered democracy, the battle between absolute rule and popular democracy continued. Many dictators kept their positions of power, often with religious overtones. The advent of terrorism became a dreaded factor worldwide, as though fundamentalism felt a powerful threat in the unabated march of democracy. Terrorism has kept a whole world on its toes, afraid of the bloodbaths from wanton acts of violence using weapons of mass destruction. Countries which had discovered democracy, however, have simply chosen to fight back rather than recapitulate and revert to dictatorship.

Twenty-five years after EDSA People Power, democracy has not weakened despite the challenges it faces in its journey toward maturity. Instead, its quiet but insistent attraction spread largely unnoticed by a distracted world. When people power re-emerged in

Tunisia, then Egypt, and now in Algeria, Libya, Bahrain and Jordan, it is sending a clear message to those who would keep power to themselves in absolute terms. People want power shared, not denied them. People want to have their say and will risk their lives to reach that dream. It is a matter of time, not a matter of how violent dictators are willing to get to keep their hold on absolute power. People may be subdued again, but they will rise in protest again and again.

People Power is the genie released from the bottle. There is no power in the world that can put back the genie inside the bottle. At most, a genie can be forced to stay inside. But a genie released will stay out. Power tasted is sweet enough to hold on to. Power in the hands of the people will not be returned to the hands of one.

Filipinos, then, have much to be proud of, and have much to learn still. They proved that democracy can be attained peacefully against authoritarian ruled. In its moment in 1986, People Power was a miracle. Later, though, EDSA People Power also became a template for a revolution,

a strange yet surprisingly effective option. The Middle East today shows just how determined and powerful People Power can be, two out of two countries so far—and counting.

In their own time, those countries who sought change through People Power will have to go through their own learning curve. They may have their own version of *coup d'états* against democratic leaderships, but I believe that democracy, once experienced, will leave a permanent mark in the collective psyche of citizens of any country. Filipinos need not despair. It is not in visible and active leadership alone that democracy is led by; it is also the dreams and aspirations inside our hearts that set parameters for democracy to survive against all odds.

The Philippines has not finished the revolution it started. An awakened spirit for volunteerism will give birth to good citizenship where the interests of many will transcend the interests of a few. Filipinos are shamed by corruption, and even more so by poverty. But People Power can change all that. We just have to bring it to another level.

EDITORIAL

Unfading glory

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We remember the sights: the press conference held by the leaders of the military breakaway group, a calm Fidel Ramos beside a visibly tense Juan Ponce Enrile, with a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary behind them; the first trickle of civilians pouring into Camp Aguinaldo on Saturday night to offer their support and protection; the confrontation on Sunday with the tanks at the corner of Epifanio de los Santos and Ortigas Avenues, with the nuns at the front, thousands of unarmed civilians beside and behind them; the sudden appearance of opposition personalities on government TV, after the studio had been liberated by reformist forces. Above all, we remember the heaving, yellow sea: the stirring sight of millions of people filling EDSA between Ortigas and P. Tuazon Street in Cubao, from Sunday afternoon to Tuesday night.

We remember the sounds: the rumors that swirled through the country's urban centers that fateful weekend; the first appeals aired on Radio Veritas, first by Butz Aquino, then by Jaime Cardinal Sin, for people to assemble outside Camp Aguinaldo; the constant whup-whup-whupping of helicopter blades, as helicopter gunships patrolled the skies. Above all, we remember the unceasing murmur of rosaries being prayed, the passionate wailing of the opposition anthem “Bayan Ko” being sung.

We remember the feel: the cool days, the chilly nights. Even the weather cooperated with the EDSA Revolution. We remember the emotions: a consciousness that Marcos' troops could still attack and that therefore danger was real; an awareness that history was being made, and we were all involved in its making; not least, a sense that, on EDSA, everyone was, genuinely, even if only temporarily, equal.

The four days of EDSA—from Saturday, Feb. 22 to Tuesday, Feb. 25—were truly glorious, a shining moment in our history. The happy revolution succeeded; this was, this is, the bottom-line basis of EDSA's glory. The dictator was ousted, an entirely new government took over, democracy was restored.

But the EDSA Revolution was also an authentically “happy” one: peaceful, orderly, prayerful, compassionate (we will never forget the sight of civilians offering food and flowers to weary, war-hardened Marines) and above all popular, participatory. This is EDSA's longer-lasting claim to glory. We coined the phrase “people power”—and then we showed the world what we meant by it.

Twenty-five years later, and thanks in large part to the successful 18-day revolution in Egypt that led to the ouster of another dictator, we remember EDSA 1986 with hearts bursting, again, with pride. Sometimes, the almost ritual self-flagellation we Filipinos like to inflict on ourselves prevents us from seeing the plain truth. But during at least two defining moments in our history, we outdid ourselves, and showed a path for the rest of the world.

In 1898, we were the first in all of Asia to establish a republic. And in 1986 we were the first in modern history to stage a people power revolution. True, much unfinished business remains—but the reality is we have been given the gift of a great start. It is a wonderful legacy we can use to our advantage, if only we put our minds to it and our shoulders to history's wheel.

We remember.



Glimpses

By JOSE MA. MONTELIBANO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Modus operandi

This is a week of remembrance for the Philippines and the Filipinos. Twenty-five years ago we put the country on the map and “People Power” became part of world history. Now we are seeing other forms of people power rumbling through the Middle East that we hope will bring peaceful change to that troubled part of the globe. Souvenirs of EDSA 1986 are coming out of the woodwork: old photos, used T-shirts, Cory dolls, “Hindi ka nag-iisa” pins, barbed wire from Malacañang barricades, and other relics tucked in a closet with memories.

I come from a lost generation known as “martial law babies,” we who grew up on state-run TV and radio. The controlled press thought Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos came with Malacañang's over-sized, gilded furniture.

Then there are “EDSA babies” and, seen in a recent Inquirer photo caption, “post-EDSA babies.”

Everyone who was on EDSA 25 years ago has visibly aged. We will all know we are truly old when Fidel Ramos cannot re-enact his famous 1986 jump for joy anymore. Cory Aquino, Jaime Cardinal Sin, Marcos, Doy Laurel and many other figures have passed into history, so the question a new generation asks the veterans of 1986 is whether we did change or not. Or perhaps how deep a change it has been.

Some say that history repeats itself, that we in EDSA 1 and EDSA 2 were just pieces in a board game God plays with dice that we call Philippine history.

Others say we shouldn't blame history, because history cannot repeat history, rather it is we who repeat it. The main characters and parts of the story line differ but situations and human nature do not seem to change. We can look back to the short-lived First Philippine Republic and, while reading the letters of Apolinario Mabini, wonder whether he was truly enlightened because he seems to be describing our times and prescribing solutions for 21st-century problems at the turn of the 20th century. Was Mabini able to see the future or are we just repeating history?

I will leave everyone to remember EDSA 1986 and wait for the political analysts to make sense of everything. As a historian, it always makes me wonder whether we actually learn from the past.

On a personal level, every year we are warned about crime and given tips to prevent it. We all know about budol-budol and its Internet variation about friends being stranded in a foreign country with no cash. We know about akyat-bahay, bukas-kotse, OXO, Sputnik, etc., but such things always happen to other people. There is no urgency unless you or someone you know falls victim to them.

Re-reading Jose Rizal's correspondence, I took note of a letter to his family dated Aug. 29, 1884 where he talks about a Pinoy who

had been swindled in Madrid:

“A young man from Nagcarlan called Pedro Tobino has been here. According to him, he came to Europe for pleasure, bringing with him P1,150. As the young man is not one of the more smart ones—he could hardly be understood in Spanish—he didn't study. He is one of those who prefer the advice of a Spaniard to that of his countrymen. He happened to live on a bad street of Madrid, where they found out that he had money. A few days later, they swindled him of everything that was left of his money, leaving him without a cent.

“Here what they call timar is robbery through astuteness, deceiving the innocent ones. The procedure they used with Tobino was the grossest and most vulgar.

“He was walking behind a man who let drop a pocketbook. A lad wanted to pick it up, but he got it and offered it to the owner. Very grateful, [the owner] told Tobino that he was a foreigner and [that had he lost] his pocketbook he would have been left without a cent, and in fact he showed him the pocketbook full of bank notes. And they went on talking. At this point, an Englishman approached and told them that if they would accompany him to the consulate, he would give each of them P5. Tobino [offered to] accompany him to the consulate [but refused to accept] the P5. [Thus the two] strangers accompanied the Englishman.

“On the way the [man who claimed to be a foreigner] asked the Englishman if he would like him and Tobino to serve as his [tour guides]

around Madrid. In order that the Englishman wouldn't distrust him, he showed him his pocketbook full of bank notes, and urged Tobino to do the same. The very stupid one [Tobino] showed his P750. The man placed Tobino's bank notes in his pocketbook and handed it over to him for safekeeping. The Englishman said he would like to change P500 in gold into bills and showed him many rolls of coins. They asked Tobino for a handkerchief into which they put the rolls and the pocketbook and handed them to Tobino. The man told Tobino to go to the moneychanger while he and the Englishman would wait for him at the café. He even asked for P1. But when Tobino was about to change the coins, he couldn't find the pocketbook, only the rolls of coins which turned out to be pellets.

“Now Tobino doesn't have a cent, and he is roaming the streets of Madrid, dressed grotesquely, with a large silver star of false stones on his necktie and a sailor's chain. I already advised him to return to Manila immediately, but he doesn't want to, and he wants to get a job at any cost and to enjoy himself.”

It may be true that a sucker is born every minute. It is also true that few learn from history.



Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Maharlika – Samut' Sari



DUCK RACE

Participants of the Race Around the River get ready for a swim during the 2011 Duck Race for Cancer event at Pacific Islands Club on Feb. 19.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



Plastic ducks are seen racing their way around for the 2011 Duck Race for Cancer at Pacific Islands Club's Lazy River Saturday night last week.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



COOKING CONTEST

Judges in Kagman High School's recipe competition rate the first two entries entered by students as culinary arts program instructor Frank Sablan and Principal Alfred Ada, standing at the back, look on Thursday last week.

MONETH G. DEPOSA



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Advanced happy birthday to Jerome Reyes Jr., who will have his special day tomorrow, Feb. 27, and belated happy birthday to Jacqueline Diaz Lizama, who celebrated her birthday on Feb. 24! May you both have many more birthdays to come! With love, from the Diaz family!



Happy birthday greetings go out to Shane Diaz DLG, who is celebrating his birthday today, Feb. 26! May you have many more birthdays to come! Love, Mommy, Coco, Boom, and the family.



Happy 14th birthday to a wonderful & loving son, Joseph Jr. Cepeda Santos, who is celebrating his birthday tomorrow, Feb. 27, 2011! Wishing you all the blessings of love and life because you were once that special little boy, you are now a growing young man, and forever you will continue to be our precious son/friend. Greetings coming from your family and friends!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



BULLY SHOW

A young boy befriends an American Bully at the "Who's the Alpha Dog" show grounds Saturday afternoon.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



CLARISSA V. DAVID



CLARISSA V. DAVID

An American Bully owner prepares to go on stage with his pet.

One of the event organizers pets a brown Bully.



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Culinary art program students prepare their entry for the competition.



MATHLETES ON A BREAK

Students from Oleai Elementary School share a meal after the rigorous rounds of the MathCourt competition held Saturday last week at the Chacha Oceanview Junior High School.

MONETH G. DEPOSA



ON RETIREMENT FUND BILL

Former House floor leader and now attorney Joseph Camacho, right, and Marianas Public Lands Trust counsel Robert Torres, third from right, are among those who commented on Senate Bill 17-43, Senate Draft 1 during the public comment period at the House session on Thursday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Teachers and parent volunteers assist the Public School System in tabulating the results of the MathCourt contest for K-5th division last Saturday.

YoungStyle

CHICAGO—As drums pulsed and a singer wailed, Chelot Pierre danced. Dressed in white, a red sash around his waist, the young man glided about the room with serpentine grace. His arms waved gently, evoking the ocean lapping at his Caribbean homeland. His face, marked by a faint scar on his forehead, was serene.

Anthony Bradford watched from the front row, bobbing his head to the rhythm. He could scarcely believe 14 years had passed since he first saw Chelot dance, a skinny orphan whirling in the tropical sun.

Bradford was a Peace Corps volunteer from Chicago's South Side when he met Chelot on a dust-caked Haitian street. He ended up caring for him like a son, and even tried to adopt him until the expense and bureaucracy foiled his dream, forcing him to leave Chelot behind when his stint ended in 1999.

His efforts in the years that followed were no more successful, curdling his hope for a reunion—until the day he received an astonishing message on his answering machine.

"Papa, I'm at Union Station," a familiar voice said in Creole-spiced English. "Come get me, Papa. Come get me. Come get me."

The story of what brought Bradford and Chelot together—and what may yet pull them apart—can be seen as a testament to the risks some Haitians take to better their lives. But Bradford and Chelot say their odyssey is about something else: how love and circumstance can turn strangers into family.

"We both felt that same energy, that same level of commitment," Bradford said. "This must have been something that was meant to be."

Chelot (pronounced "SHAY-low") was 7 or 8 on the night in 1997 when everything changed. He was playing hide and seek in the street—a power outage had killed the lights in Grand Goave, a coastal town not far from the capital of Port-au-Prince—and he didn't see Bradford's bicycle until he ran into it.

His face smashed into the handlebars, opening an enormous gash on his forehead. As he stumbled away, he fell again, hitting his head on a concrete curb.

His cries drew a crowd. Several men surrounded Bradford, an amiable Peace Corps volunteer who had been riding home from a meeting. As he explained in sputtering Creole that it had been an accident, he wrapped his T-shirt around Chelot's bleeding head. He walked the boy to a nearby medical clinic for stitches, then took him home.

Two days later, Bradford was sitting on the porch of his cinderblock house when Chelot appeared at the gate, clutching a plastic bag that held a T-shirt, a pair of shorts and half a bar of soap. Tears streamed down his round face.

"What's wrong?" Bradford asked. "Why are you crying?"

"Ou se papa m," the boy said. You are my father.

Chelot was an orphan. He never knew his biological father, and a fever claimed his mother when he was 2. A family friend raised him alongside her own two boys, but every day was a struggle. Sometimes the children didn't go to school. Sometimes they didn't eat.

In the face of such hardship, Haitians learn to snatch opportunity when it comes. And after the American collided with Chelot, the woman taking care of him saw a big one.

She told Chelot to leave. She wasn't angry, she said, and Chelot hadn't done anything wrong. But he had to go.

"Blan"—Creole slang for foreigner—would be his father now.

Bradford, single, childless and by no means rich, was stunned. He took the boy to the neighbors, a police station and the local priest, but received the same answer.

"No one is going to help you," the priest said. "You have something they don't have. They think it's going to be easier for you to take care of him."

Bradford kept Chelot, but what he figured would be a temporary inconvenience evolved into something deep.

Bradford found a spot for him at the St. Joseph's Home for Boys, an orphanage in Port-au-Prince. He vowed to return for Chelot, but as he packed his things for home, his friends could see his pain.

"It was devastating," said Francine Rodd, then the Peace Corps' director in Haiti.

Chelot easily adapted to life at St. Joseph's, largely because of its dance company. He had natural talent, and St. Joseph's troupe, which raised money for the home by performing, offered

When he confessed his concern to another boy, the friend suggested an audacious plan: If Bradford couldn't come for him, he should go to Bradford.

Chelot, who had visited the United States several times with the St. Joseph's dancers, waited for the final stop of a spring tour. When the rest of the boys went shopping, he remained in the Boston church rectory where they were staying, saying he wanted to catch up on e-mail. He waited a few minutes, then dashed to the train station.

After two days on the rails, he pulled

some of the boys at a dance festival. He did, and soon the man arrived to whisk Chelot to his South Side house.

Chelot expected it to be no more than a way station, but the man told him that continuing his journey would be unwise. He said another orphan who tried to slip away from St. Joseph's had been found and sent back to Haiti. It would be safest, he said, if Chelot contacted no one.

Chelot, frightened and short of options, complied. Despite a stream of pleading e-mails from Bradford, he remained silent.

Several tense months passed until one day, Jones Bradford grew weary of seeing her husband mope at the computer.

"Move out of the way," she said. "I'm going to type the message."

Jones Bradford had met Chelot while accompanying Bradford on a trip to Haiti, and she, too, had taken a parental interest in him. Her e-mail was stern, direct, even threatening—the tone of a mother who had had enough. The next day, a reply came back.

"Hi, Mom," it said. "I love you. I miss you. I'll call you soon."

The Bradfords erupted in celebration.

"I remember the tears, the crying—it was crazy," Jones Bradford recalled. "It was an incredible experience."

Chelot, emboldened, told the man with whom he was staying that he wanted to return to his father. The man put him on a Greyhound headed west, and the Bradfords met him in Galesburg for a reunion that was happy but subdued.

One journey was over. Another, they knew, was just beginning.

Much has changed since that day. Bradford and his wife split up, and in 2008 he moved back to Chicago. Chelot soon followed, enrolling in the charter high school where Bradford taught.

Chelot spent his first few years in America under a shadow of fear. He had no legal permission to be here, and the Bradfords worried he could be deported. But that changed after the Haitian earthquake last year that claimed an estimated 300,000 lives and reduced much of the country to rubble.

Haitians who were in the United States at the time of the quake were offered temporary protected status, allowing them to stay. The status is set to expire this summer, but many legal experts believe it will be extended.

Regardless of how long his time in America lasts, Chelot, now in his early 20s, wants to make the most of it by pursuing a medical degree. When he returns to Haiti, he said, he wants to go back as a doctor.

"I want to care for kids who grew up like me," he said.

In the meantime, he dances. He is part of Tamboula, a Chicago-based company, and one recent Saturday they performed at Olbrich Botanical Gardens in Madison, Wis.

Haitian dance is a narrative art, telling stories of pain and joy. Chelot moved with a sense of liberation, portraying a Vodou priest, a flirtatious young man on the prowl and a farmer overjoyed with a bumper crop. When it was over, the applause was almost louder than the drums.

No one clapped harder than Bradford. His boy was now a man, his raw moves polished by years of experience. As Chelot took his bow, Bradford had to smile, beaming at the wonder of it all with nothing less than a father's pride.



MCT

Chelot Pierre, right, meets with his surrogate father, Anthony Bradford, in Madison, Wisconsin, on January 29, 2011. The two first met in Haiti in the 1990s when Bradford was a Peace Corps volunteer.

By accident, a boy discovers a father he didn't know he had

By JOHN KEILMAN
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The American had a soft spot for kids in trouble, and in Chelot he saw a boy facing enormous odds.

Haitian orphans often become "restaveks"—child slaves who labor endlessly, endure frequent beatings and rarely receive an education.

Bradford, though, insisted on treating Chelot with dignity. He enrolled him in school, tutored him in English and made sure he was well fed. He had him baptized, a ceremony that signaled a profound commitment.

He soon thought of Chelot as a son. They'd go to neighborhood parties together, where Bradford would watch Chelot dance to the Konpa music pumping from a boom box. They'd sit on the porch at night and look at the stars, talking about what life would be like back in America.

"Shee-ca-go," Chelot would say. "Someday we'll be together in Shee-ca-go."

Bradford extended his two-year Peace Corps stint by 12 months to stay with Chelot and pursue his adoption, but it became too expensive. Chelot would have to stay in Haiti.

advanced training.

Still, thoughts of Bradford were never far away. The house television blazed with images of the good life in America, and Chelot clung to his hope even as months turned into years. Managing an adoption in the United States, it turned out, was no easier than it had been in Haiti: The Port-au-Prince lawyer Bradford hired disappeared with her \$500 retainer and numerous irreplaceable documents.

Bradford stayed in touch with Chelot through e-mail and phone calls, and twice he came for a visit. But his own life had become more complicated with marriage and a teaching job, and he didn't have the money to pursue the adoption all-out. By 2006, with Chelot close to adulthood, Bradford was losing confidence that they would ever reunite.

Chelot was worried, too. He thought he was getting too old for St. Joseph's and would soon be put on the street to hustle for his daily bread (St. Joseph's officials, though, say boys stay until they are 21, and most are then employed by the orphanage).

into Union Station. He didn't have Bradford's phone number, so he called everyone by that name in the Chicago phone book.

It took Bradford a day to get the message. He and his wife had moved to Macomb, about 240 miles away, a few months earlier so he could pursue a master's degree in political science. They kept their Chicago apartment, though, and Bradford's wife, Ge'ylah Jones Bradford, just happened to be checking the answering machine when she heard Chelot's call.

Bradford dispatched his Chicago friends and relatives to look for Chelot, but they couldn't find him. The Bradfords then headed to the city and scoured the station, only to hit the same dead end.

Chelot had vanished as unexpectedly as he had arrived.

Chelot had been at the station only a couple of days when a police officer noticed him and had a homeless shelter pick him up.

There, Chelot e-mailed his friend from the orphanage, who suggested that Chelot call a Chicago man who had met

CH12ES



A RASCALLY REBUS! The little frog in our picture is ready to jump. If you solve the above rebus, you'll know how far he went.

Answer: He went 3 feet (12 in CHES over two feet).

A REARRANGING CHALLENGE! The frame to the right contains the numbers 1 through 10. We challenge you to rearrange them so that the numbers along any of the four sides will add up to 18. Time limit: 90 seconds.

| | | | |
|----|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 10 | | | 5 |
| 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 |

DON'T GET STUCK ON THIS ONE! At the right is a Word Square grid. Can you find the four five-letter words that match the definitions below? All words used must read the same both across and down.

1. An adhesive (in place).
2. A mighty seed.
3. Substantial; hearty.
4. A social organization.
5. Brought to a conclusion.

Answers: 1. Paste. 2. Acorn. 3. Solid. 4. Tribe. 5. Ended.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

GREAT INVENTORS OF THE PAST!

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | E | V | A | E | R | G | R | A | H | B | Z | B | F | Q |
| F | A | R | N | S | W | O | R | T | H | N | E | M | O | R |
| T | H | G | I | R | W | K | R | A | L | S | E | T | R | E |
| K | C | I | M | R | O | C | C | M | S | T | I | C | D | G |
| N | I | L | K | N | A | R | F | E | A | S | T | M | A | N |
| X | I | N | O | C | R | A | M | E | D | I | S | O | N | I |
| P | D | E | F | O | R | E | S | T | A | W | H | U | S | |
| N | S | I | K | O | R | S | K | Y | R | A | U | W | R | G |

Illustrated by David Coulson

Hidden in the diagram above are the names of 17 great inventors who helped to make the modern world. They can be found by reading up or down, or side to side. You'll even find them diagonally going up or down. Letters can be used more than once. Listed below are the names you're looking for.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | A | S | T | E |
| A | | | | |
| S | | | | |
| T | | | | |
| E | | | | |

| | | |
|------------|------------|----------|
| ARKWRIGHT | FORD | SIKORSKY |
| BESSEMER | FRANKLIN | SINGER |
| DEFOREST | HARGREAVES | TESLA |
| EASTMAN | MARCONI | WATT |
| EDISON | MCCORMICK | WRIGHT |
| FARNSWORTH | OTIS | |

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was English biologist Thomas Henry Huxley who made the following sage observation: "There is no greater mistake than the hasty conclusion that opinions are worthless because they are badly argued."

■ In 1955, a woman in Italy gave birth to a baby who weighed 22 pounds, 8 ounces.

■ Two United State first ladies ran away to get married: Florence Harding, future wife of President Warren G. Harding, eloped with her first husband when she was 19, and Anna Harrison eloped with the future ninth U.S. President William Henry Harrison (also known as "Old Tippecanoe") when she was 20 and he was 22.

■ The substance now known as cat litter was originally designed to be used as nesting material for chickens.

■ Early in the history of the Christian church, tea was considered to be a dangerous intoxicant.

■ Louis Diat, chef at the New York City Ritz-Carlton in the early 20th century, is usually credited with first creating the soup known as vichyssoise. He based the recipe on one his mother and grandmother used to make, but he had to change the name to something a bit more fancy; it seems that "Mama's Potato-Leek Purée" didn't fit in with the other menu items.

■ The blood of the icefish has no color.

■ Have you ever noticed that there's a pale crescent of flesh at the base of each of your fingernails? If you want to be technical, the word to describe it is "lunula."

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "Animals have these advantages over man: They never hear the clock strike, they die without any idea of death, they have no theologians to instruct them, their last moments are not disturbed by unwelcome and unpleasant ceremonies, their funerals cost them nothing, and no one starts lawsuits over their wills."—Voltaire

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MAGIC MAZE

CANDY HEART PHRASES

P R O L J G D A X V S A P E N
K I F C A X V S Q O M L J V H
C E C A X V T K R O P N I O J
H U F D B E I P R A G U S L Y
X V P T L (S W E E T L O V E R)
P O M I S K N N E M U Y M U Y
I G M M D I I P E D B E Z R X
W S E U M M Y T R Q O V N T L
A N G E L M K C O R U O Y J I
G F B L D R I B E V O L D C A
Y X A W V T S R E M L I A M E

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

| | | | |
|----------|------------|------------|-----------|
| All mine | Email me | My pet | True love |
| Amore | I love you | Smile | You rock |
| Angel | Kiss me | Sugar pie | Yum yum |
| Be mine | Love bird | Sweet love | |

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

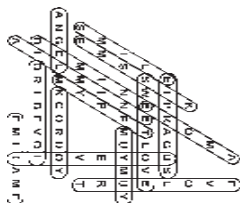
★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | - | | × | | 9 |
| ÷ | | + | | ÷ | |
| | + | | × | | 9 |
| + | | + | | + | |
| | + | | ÷ | | 1 |
| 9 | | 9 | | 9 | |

1 1 2 3 5 6 7 8 9

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MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



CANDY HEART PHRASES

GO FIGURE ANSWER

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 6 | | 6 | | 6 |
| 1 | 9 | ÷ | 1 | + | 5 |
| | + | | + | | + |
| 9 | 3 | × | 1 | + | 2 |
| | ÷ | | + | | ÷ |
| 9 | 9 | × | 7 | - | 8 |

Midnight Rambler

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I have an 8-year-old Schnauzer, "Fixer," who has recently started getting into things during the night, after I'm in bed. He has torn open bags, taken things from my purse and gotten into my grandkids' arts and crafts box. Now I have to be careful not to leave anything around. We have not changed the way we are doing things. Could this be his age?—Phyllis H., Rochester, N.Y.

DEAR PHYLLIS: I'd be remiss if I didn't recommend you take him to the veterinarian first thing, just to make sure there is no underlying health issue causing his sudden behavioral change.

If everything checks out, tackle the problem from two angles. First, even though you haven't changed his daily schedule, something subtle may have changed in the house or yard. Pay attention to nighttime happenings. Is there some new noise outside? Did something happen while you were asleep, perhaps, that may have caused Fixer to become anxious?

Next, make some changes in his day and night routine that will help him feel more secure when you're asleep. Extend his evening walk a bit and add some basic obedience training and play time to the evening schedule. When it's your bedtime, lead Fixer over to his bedding and have him lie down and



Paw's corner

by Sam Mazzotta

stay. Check back in five minutes, then in 30; if he's still in his bed, praise him and give him a little treat. If he's not in his bed, lead him back and repeat. Place a favorite chew toy next to him.

At first, Fixer will hop right back out once he thinks you're asleep and proceed with his nightly rummaging. Be patient. It will take some time for him to associate this routine with the idea that you want him to stay there at night. Meantime, keep placing people things out of reach. Put doggie toys in their place.

■ ■ ■

Send your pet questions and tips to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Find more pet advice and resources at www.pawscorner.com.

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A 'pizza puzzle' helps get chores done

Sometimes little ones get overwhelmed when confronted with a big job—like picking up a messy room. It may seem easy enough to adults, but to them, well, where do they begin? It's easier when the tasks are broken up into chunks, and that's what this activity is all about. Get a job done, but in slices, using this simple pizza puzzle game.

Here's the crafting fun:

1. Take a large plate, preferably 15 inches in diameter, turn it upside down on a piece of poster board or a craft foam sheet, and trace around it. Cut out the circle. Divide the circle into three pieces like pizza slices, and cut them out.

2. Get your child thinking about pizza toppings and then begin to cut out the basic food shapes together from construction paper or craft foam. You might decide on red pepperoni circles, green pepper squiggles and tan mushroom slices. Glue them onto the slices.

3. Cut out the numbers 1, 2 and 3 from construction paper or craft foam, and glue one on each slice. While you are doing this, decide what part of the chore each number will represent. For example, when cleaning a bedroom, the tasks might be put (1) shoes in the closet, (2) clothes in the hamper and (3) books in the basket.

4. Glue a small magnet to the back of each slice. Let dry.

Here's how the game works:

Watch your child speed into his room to get started! "Mom, my shoes are in the closet!" he might say as he completes the task. He'll run into the kitchen to place slice No. 1 on a magnetic bulletin board or refrigerator door. He'll run back to his room. "Mom, my clothes are in the hamper!" Up goes slice No. 2. "Mom! I put all my books in the basket!" Before you know it, all

Donna's Day Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson



three pieces of his chore will be done, and an entire yummy pizza will be decorating your kitchen.

Of course, by the time he's finished, he might decide he's hungry for a slice of pizza. I'd hand him the real thing, though.

Extra tip: As your child grows, make an incentive with a few more pieces using a variety of themes. For example, use white poster board and make five snowballs for a snowman, or brown poster board for a chocolate cake. Surprise him with a special reward occasionally when there's a significant chore to be tackled.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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Life & Style

Hosts James Franco and Anne Hathaway talk Oscars

By SANDY COHEN
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—They are about to host the Academy Awards for the first time, but James Franco and Anne Hathaway don't look nervous.

At 28, she will be the youngest host ever. Franco, 32, is also up for an Oscar—his first—for his leading role in "127 Hours." Still, with the big show days away, they seem completely at ease, joking with each other, dispelling some show rumors and even starting others.

"We're dating," Franco quipped.

The two actors took time out from rehearsals Thursday for a lightning round of back-to-back three-minute TV interviews, and while they refused to reveal anything specific about what they'll be doing on the show, they did spill a few secrets.

■ The show's writers have given them a celebrity nickname: Francaway.

■ When asked who she'll be rooting for on Oscar night, Hathaway said that, as hosts, they're not allowed to have favorites. "James can't even root for himself," she said. Added Franco: "Yeah, screw that guy."

■ Franco said he will try to tweet during the show.

■ Though they had never worked together before, both said their chemistry was instantaneous. Said Hathaway: "I've been thinking of having chemistry with



Actors James Franco, left, and Anne Hathaway talk to the media at the Kodak Theatre in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles, Thursday, Feb. 24, 2011.

James Franco for years."

■ Seriously, though, Hathaway said she has been inspired by working with her co-host. "James has really made me question what it means to be an actor and an artist," she said, describing him as "an entirely original mind." "James doesn't allow anything to be conventional or clichéd."

■ Franco isn't worried about the pressure of the big show. "Nobody thinks I'm Chris Rock or Billy Crystal," he said. "I can

try anything and nobody has high expectations, so nobody cares if I'm not great."

■ Both are thrilled at the chance to host the Academy Awards. Franco said he moved to Los Angeles about 10 years ago—the same time the Oscars moved into the Kodak Theatre: "I remember every Oscar season, I'd be driving by and probably getting in a traffic jam because they closed off Hollywood Boulevard or whatever and just feeling like, 'Wow, that was it, that was the

top.' So it's nice to be here."

Hathaway said hosting the show is an honor. "I love the Oscars. I do. I think it's wonderful. I love being an actor. I feel like the luckiest girl in the whole wide world, and this is just a continuation of the amazing fortune and remarkable and unusual experiences I've gotten to have in my life. I couldn't be more grateful."

The Academy Awards will be presented Sunday at the Kodak Theatre and broadcast on ABC.

You never forget your first time at the Oscars

By MICHAEL CIDONI
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The glamour. The gowns. The limos. The worldwide audience. And all those superstars.

The Academy Awards are Hollywood's grandest pageant, and no matter how celebrated one's stardom is, a trip to the Oscars is unforgettable. Especially the first one.

Here, some actors and directors reflect on their first trips to the big show.

■ Before she was nominated for "Moulin Rouge" and won for "The Hours," Nicole Kidman attended the Oscars with then-husband Tom Cruise: "He was nominated. And I remember I got to wear this really short little Valentino velvet dress and I just was like absolutely stunned. It was like the biggest thing I had ever seen. I couldn't believe how loud the photographers were."

■ Ryan Gosling went to the show as a nominee in 2007, but his night was overshadowed by his date's hairdo: "I went there with 'Half Nelson' and I went with my mother. And the whole night was dominated by the fact that she got this hairstyle that she was regretting. So that was all we talked about the whole night. This lady convinced her that everyone was going to be wearing beehives, and that was the new thing that year. Of course we got there, nobody. Everybody had their hair down."

■ Virginia Madsen also brought her mom, and she seared the night into her mind: "Oh, I remember every detail. I mean, I was Cinderella, and I didn't have to go home at midnight. I brought my mom with me and I, it was just, everything about that night was perfect. Everything was a dream come true—as I imagined it when I was five years old. I mean, I wouldn't change a thing. It was really beautiful."

■ Marcia Gay Harden, who won for her role in "Pollack," also remembers every detail: "It strikes me still with the clarity of a lightning bolt, that the first time I went there, I was graced to win...given the opportunity by Ed Harris to be in a great movie to play a real transformational character that caught the votes from some voters. And the glory of the night was that my dad was alive, my mom was alive. Ed was thrilled. My husband was there. It was surreal."

■ Director Sofia Coppola was just a kid when she attended her first Oscar ceremony with her father, Francis Ford Coppola: "I must have been 7 or 8. I had a tuxedo dress. But I have vague memories. It was a lot of glamorous grown-ups."

■ Jake Gyllenhaal was totally overwhelmed: "It's like this

mind-blowingly intense situation. And, yet, at the same time, oddly normal, which makes it even more strange. I remember George Clooney shaking my hand at one point as I was walking to my seat, and not believing it. And I remember so many—a sea of famous people's faces; I remember that."

■ Marisa Tomei had a guardian looking over her shoulder when she was nominated, and won, best supporting actress for "My Cousin Vinny": "I remember (actress) Mary McDonnell was sitting behind me, and she was so sweet and she just kept tapping my shoulder and being like, 'How are you doing, honey?' ... I was scared and she was very motherly towards me and it was a nice little crowd that I was sitting with."

■ Josh Brolin, who was nominated in 2008 for his supporting role in "Milk," first came to the Oscars with wife Diane Lane when she was nominated for her lead performance in "Unfaithful": "There was a massive possibility that she was going to be up there soon accepting an award. But then you learn after a while that it is more about the get-together and the appreciation of your peers nominating you and saying, 'We really liked your performance.'"

■ Jack Black recalls his first Oscar visit: "I was at the Oscars to present, I think it was best sound design or something, or best arm-pit hair? I don't know what I was presenting. But, I had a really great surreal, weird time. It was always with Will Ferrell. Done it a couple of times. Do little comedic bits, songs. It was cool to be a part of the Oscar history, the pageantry of Hollywood."

■ Songwriter Carole Bayer Sager, who has been nominated six times, remembers her first with mixed feelings: "I was at the Oscars with Marvin Hamlisch. We had both written a song called 'Nobody Does it Better,' recorded by Carly Simon, and it was for the movie 'The Spy Who Loved Me.' And I remember trying to put that title in the lyric, and I found the line: 'Like heaven above me, the spy who loved me, is keeping all my secrets safe tonight. Nobody does it better...' And we lost. I don't remember to what song. And I knew, at that moment, that the best part is being nominated, because losing didn't feel so good."

■ Jeff Bridges, nominated for his sixth Oscar for "True Grit," says his most memorable trip to the show was last year: "It's so exciting, you know, being recognized by your guys, saying 'Atta boy, Jeff. Good job.' Everybody standing up and all that. Oh, God, it is so thrilling. Then, to share it with my wife, who was there through the whole thing. It was a magical, magical evening for me."

10 MOST BIZARRE OSCAR MOMENTS

By CHRISTY LEMIRE
AP MOVIE CRITIC

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Academy Awards are, for the most part, an elegant and tightly controlled affair. But wacky things can and do happen sometimes—and those are the moments viewers remember the most.

Here is a look at the 10 most bizarre moments in the show's history:

■ **The streaker** (1974): Just as host David Niven was about to introduce Elizabeth Taylor, a naked man came running across the stage behind him, flashing a peace sign. (It was the '70s.) The whole place naturally went wild with laughter, but Niven, being the epitome of British class and cool, didn't miss a beat. He deadpanned: "Well, ladies and gentlemen, that was almost bound to happen. But isn't it fascinating to think that probably the only laugh that man will ever get in his life is by stripping off and showing his shortcomings?"

■ **Marlon Brando sends Sacheen Littlefeather on stage** (1973): Brando won best actor for his iconic portrayal of Don Corleone in "The Godfather." But he refused to accept the award, and instead sent a woman who said she was an Apache named Sacheen Littlefeather to speak on his behalf. Brando was protesting what he believed to be stereotypical treatment of Native Americans in the film industry. Littlefeather's speech drew a mixture of applause and boos, as well as questions about whether she was truly a Native American herself.

■ **Rob Lowe's duet with Snow White** (1989): Allan Carr injected an element of high camp when he took over as producer of the Academy Awards. He was, after all, the man behind such splashy movie musicals as "Grease" and "Can't Stop the Music," and he won a Tony for the Broadway hit "La Cage aux Folles." But his Oscar ceremony is considered one of the biggest flops in the show's history. It included a 20-minute opening dance number with a squeaky-voiced Snow White-look-

like singing "Proud Mary" with Lowe, who was just getting over a sex-tape scandal. Just try and watch it without cringing.

■ **Bjork's swan dress** (2001): Being notoriously daring and different as she is, Bjork dazzled and bedeviled everyone when she showed up at the planet's most-watched red carpet in a white, fluffy gown with a swan's head draped around her neck. (The Icelandic singer and actress was nominated for best original song for "I've Seen It All" from Lars von Trier's "Dancer in the Dark.") It is arguably the most famous outfit ever worn to the Oscars. It inspired many a Halloween costume.

■ **Jack Palance's one-armed push-ups** (1992): Palance already had been nominated for an Oscar twice before, both for best supporting actor, for 1952's "Sudden Fear" and 1953's "Shane." Four decades later, when he finally won the award for the comedy "City Slickers," he proved he was just as virile as ever at 72. In the middle of a raunchy acceptance speech, in which he was explaining how reluctant producers can be to cast older actors, Palance stepped away from the podium, dropped to the stage and did a series of one-armed push-ups. Who wouldn't hire him?

■ **Robert Benigni's seat climbing** (1999): Speaking of acrobatics, there's Benigni. Ever the clown, the Italian actor and director couldn't just walk up on stage and give humble, teary-eyed thanks when his "Life Is Beautiful" won the Oscar for best foreign-language film. Instead, he leaped from one seat back to another, whipping the audience into a frenzy, before hopping up the steps and giving presenter Sophia Loren a long, tight bear hug. ("Life Is Beautiful" also earned a best-actor Oscar for Benigni and one for its original score.)

■ **"Ordinary People" beats "Raging Bull" for best picture** (1981): Not so much a wacky moment but a befuddling one. How could the Academy get this one so wrong? In retrospect, Martin Scorsese's "Raging Bull" emerges as a small mas-

terpiece, intimately powerful in black and white, gorgeous—even its brutal violence. "Ordinary People," Robert Redford's directing debut, feels like a respectable and well-made if austere family drama. But that's not as bad as ...

■ **"Dances With Wolves" beats "Goodfellas" for best picture** (1991): Ten years later, the Academy gets it wrong again, and Scorsese is on the losing end again. Sure, Kevin Costner's "Dances With Wolves" is a sweeping epic, visually impressive in its enormity, but looking back it feels condescending and a little corny. "Goodfellas," meanwhile, is an example of Scorsese's virtuoso filmmaking at its finest—funny, brash, evocative and always riveting. Scorsese eventually got his due, though, with Oscars for best picture and director for 2006's "The Departed."

■ **You like Sally Field** (1985): "Places in the Heart" earned Field her second best-actress Oscar—the first came for 1979's "Norma Rae"—but this one meant more to her, she said in her acceptance speech as she clutched the golden statue, giddy and beaming. This time, she said she finally felt the respect of her peers: "I can't deny the fact that you like me. Right now, you like me!" It's a line that would be endlessly parodied—and misquoted.

■ **The "South Park" guys show up in drag** (2000): Trey Parker and Matt Stone arrived to support the feature film version of their animated series, "South Park: Bigger, Longer & Uncut," which earned Parker and Marc Shaiman an original-song nomination for the jaunty "Blame Canada." But they couldn't just wear tuxes like everyone else. Since they've made a career out of skewering celebrities, Stone donned a replica of the pink gown Gwyneth Paltrow wore a year earlier when she won best actress for "Shakespeare in Love," while Parker wore a knock-off of the plunging green Versace number Jennifer Lopez famously filled out at the Grammys. So much chest hair... and so hilarious.

CBS, Warner pull plug on season of Sheen's sitcom

LOS ANGELES (AP)—In the wake of an incendiary radio interview with "Two and a Half Men" star Charlie Sheen, CBS and Warner Bros. Television said they are ending production on TV's top-rated sitcom for the season.

The decision was based on the "totality of Charlie Sheen's statements, conduct and condition," the companies said in a joint statement Thursday. The show's future was not addressed.

Production had been suspended in January to allow Sheen to seek rehabilitation. Earlier Thursday, Warner and Sheen's publicist, Stan Rosenfield, said the series would resume taping next week with Sheen.

That was before the 45-year-old actor's rambling, often vitriolic radio interview with host Alex Jones in which Sheen blasted "Two and a Half Men" producer Chuck Lorre and other targets including Alcoholics Anonymous.

The abrupt decision to pull the plug on additional episodes of the lucrative sitcom came after Sheen's increasingly erratic behavior, including an earlier interview in which he claimed he had sought to return to work but was barred by producers.

In his interview with Jones, Sheen repeatedly evoked violent images and ideas. He also derided Lorre in an attack that reeked of anti-Semitism.

"There's something this side of deplorable that a certain



AP
In this July 20, 2005 file photo, actor Charlie Sheen, right, co-star of "Two and a Half Men," and Chuck Lorre, executive producer of the show, are shown during the CBS portion of the Television Critics Association press tour in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Chaim Levine—yeah, that's Chuck's real name—mistook this rock star for his own selfish exit strategy, bro. Check it, Alex: I embarrassed him in front of his children and the world by healing at a pace that his unevolved mind cannot process," Sheen said.

"Last I checked, Chaim, I spent close to the last decade effortlessly and magically converting your tin cans into pure gold. And the gratitude I get is this charlatan chose not to do his job, which is to write," he said.

Lorre, who was born Charles Levine, is a veteran producer whose hits include "The Big Bang Theory," "Dharma & Greg" and "Cybill."

Speaking of himself, Sheen said he has "magic and poetry in my fingertips, most of the time."

Lorre had no comment on

Sheen's remarks or the production shut down, a spokeswoman said Thursday. A call made after business hours Thursday to the publicist for Sheen's co-star, Jon Cryer, was not returned.

Sheen, however, did not go silent after the CBS and Warner announcement.

In what TMZ dubbed an "open letter" from Sheen that the website posted Thursday, the actor called Lorre a "contaminated little maggot" and wished the producer "nothing but pain."

Sheen, improbably, also called on his fans to start a protest movement for him.

"I urge all my beautiful and loyal fans who embraced this show for almost a decade to walk with me side-by-side as we march up the steps of justice to right this unconscionable

wrong," he wrote.

Warner had already planned to cut this season's 24 planned episodes to 20 because of the hiatus. Now, CBS is left with a total of 16 episodes of its cornerstone Monday comedy, all of which have aired.

The network and studio had tolerated Sheen's recent misadventures, part of a long-checkered life. He went into rehab in January, reportedly at home, after three hospitalizations in three months. The most recent was a brief hospital stay that followed a 911 call in which he was described as very intoxicated.

In the interview with Jones, Sheen had harsh words for Alcoholics Anonymous. He referred to it as a "bootleg cult" with a 5 percent success rate, compared to his own "100 percent" success rate.

One of the group's mottos, he said, is, "Don't be special. Be one of us." News flash: I am special and I will never be one of you."

When Jones told Sheen he sounded like Thomas Jefferson, Sheen dismissed the U.S. founding father with a rude insult.

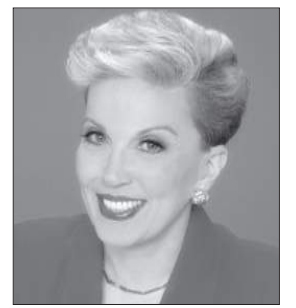
"It may be lonely up here but I sure like the view, Alex," he said.

Sheen referred to himself as a new sheriff in town who has an "army of assassins."

"If you love with violence and you hate with violence, there's nothing that can be questioned," said Sheen, who played a soldier in the war film "Platoon."

High school junior suffers loss that has yet to occur

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: I am a junior in high school and will graduate next year. I attend a private school where I have made many good friends—teachers included—and have created many happy memories.

I have just been hit with the realization that my time in high school is running out. Once I leave for college, I may never see or talk to my friends here again. I can't process the thought of having such great friends and mentors and losing them. I'm afraid for the future and how I will miss everything I've experienced at my school.

Do you have any suggestions on how to deal with all this? I can barely sleep because I feel like it's only going to get worse.

Dear Abby

LEAVING IT ALL BEHIND IN LOUISIANA

DEAR LEAVING IT ALL BEHIND: You have the rest of your junior year and senior year of high school to enjoy. Please don't cloud them by worrying that you will lose touch with your friends and mentors. Once you graduate, you will have the Internet and social networking sites to keep you in touch, and you can see each other during vacations.

You have great adventures ahead of you—and so do they. True friendships don't have to end because of distance. While some of them may, others last a lifetime. And those are the ones that count.

DEAR ABBY: I have no contact with my mother for many reasons. It was difficult to sever the relationship, but after my son was born—for his safety and well-being—I felt I had no choice.

My mother has seen my son once, when he was 6 months old. She had just been released from jail and arrived at my home stoned and out of it. I made sure she found a safe way home and haven't spoken to her since.

My son will be 3 soon. Yesterday we were talking about families and he asked, "You don't have a mommy?" I replied, "Yes, I do. Her name is Cindy." Thankfully, he left it at that. But it started me thinking about what I should say when he asks me questions about his grandmother. I had planned on talking to him when he was older because addictions can run in families, and I want him to be aware of it when making choices in his teen and later years. What do you tell a 3-year-old who wonders who his grandma is?

OUT OF ANSWERS IN WISCONSIN

DEAR OUT OF ANSWERS: You have already started the dialogue. When your son wants to know why Grandma Cindy doesn't visit, that will be the time you tell him she can't be around because she's sick and isn't able to be. As your son grows older, continue to answer his questions honestly and in an age-appropriate way.

DEAR ABBY: When we are in a restaurant eating a meal and someone we know comes by our table, he or she always reaches out to shake hands with me to be friendly. I am from the country and sometimes I pick up chicken strips, French fries, fish or hush puppies to eat them—naturally my fingers get grease on them. Also, I don't know whether that person has washed his or her hands or not. So, what's a polite way to refuse to shake with someone? I don't want to be rude. I try not to bother people when they're eating because I believe that is a private time.

ARKANSAS DINER

DEAR DINER: All you have to say is, "I'd love to shake hands, but mine are greasy." That's not rude; it's considerate—and the person will probably thank you.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

TOP TEN

iTunes' top 10 selling singles and albums of the week ending Feb. 21, 2011:

SINGLES:

1. "Born This Way," Lady GaGa
2. "Forget You," Cee Lo Green
3. "I Need a Doctor (feat. Eminem & Skylar Grey)," Dr. Dre
4. "Never Say Never," Justin Bieber
5. "Grenade," Bruno Mars
6. "S&M," Rihanna
7. "Firework," Katy Perry
8. "F**kin' Perfect," P!nk
9. "What the Hell," Avril Lavigne
10. "The Cave," Mumford & Sons

ALBUMS:

1. "Sigh No More," Mumford & Sons
2. "Never Say Never (The Remixes)," Justin Bieber
3. "Need You Now," Lady Antebellum
4. "The Suburbs," Arcade Fire
5. "My World 2.0," Justin Bieber
6. "Aftermath," Hillsong UNITED
7. "Loud," Rihanna
8. "Recovery," Eminem
9. "I and Love and You," The Avett Brothers
10. "Lasers," Lupe Fiasco

The Associated Press

Prince William, Kate dedicate lifeboat in Wales

TREARDUR BAY, Wales (AP)—It was only a lifeboat—yet the occasion gave hundreds of people a chance to cheer Thursday as Prince William and fiancée Kate Middleton made an official visit to Wales to dedicate the new boat.

In a ceremony in Anglesey, Wales, the prince made a short statement asking that all those who used the boat be blessed, and then Middleton, with a big smile, poured champagne over the lifeboat.

"I do the talking, she does the fun bit," William joked.

The champagne bottle was not broken over the boat, as is traditional, because the lifeboat was an inflatable and it would not have been easy to crack a bottle on its bow.

Middleton looked elegant and comfortable in her new role as a princess-to-be. She wore a three-quarter length tailored beige coat designed by British designer Katherine Hooker, and had her long hair swept back and topped by a chic feathery hat.

The hat was adorned with a badge of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, an infantry regiment of the British army.

Prince William named the Trearddur Bay Lifeboat Station's new boat the "Hereford Endeavour" at the ceremony



AP
Britain's Prince William, right, looks on as his fiancée Kate Middleton prepares to pour champagne over the lifeboat during a visit Trearddur Bay Lifeboat Station on the island of Anglesey, Wales, Thursday, Feb. 24, 2011.

300 miles (485 kilometers) northwest of London.

He and Middleton joined the crowd in singing "God Save the Queen," followed by the Welsh national anthem.

The prince, a search-and-rescue helicopter pilot at a Royal Air Force base in Wales, then stood by his fiancée as both chatted with local dignitaries

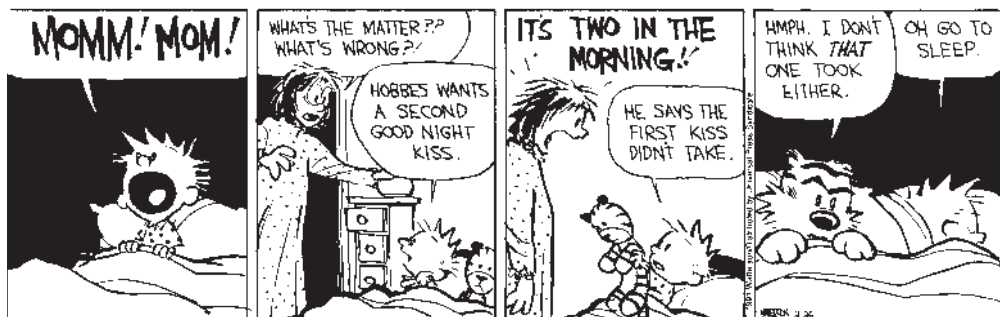
and members of the public. The couple, who are based in Wales, wanted to have a royal visit here to give back to the community, a palace spokeswoman said.

Royal fan Colin Edwards, 70, met the couple and gave them two gifts: a photograph of Queen Elizabeth II and another of the late Princess Diana with a young William and his brother Harry.

Pastimes

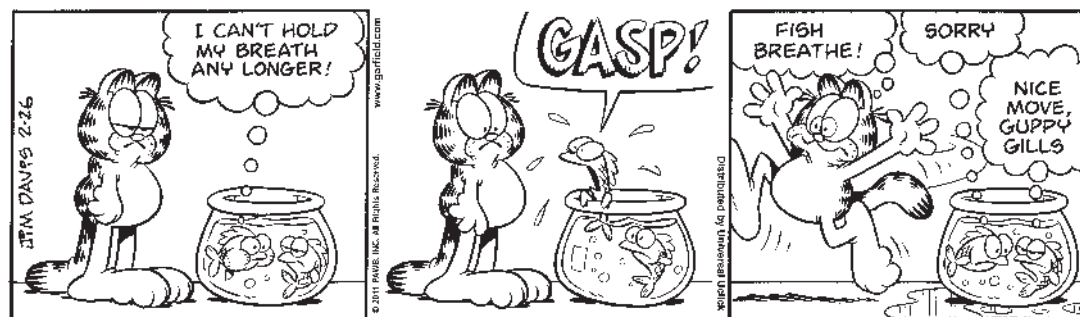
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



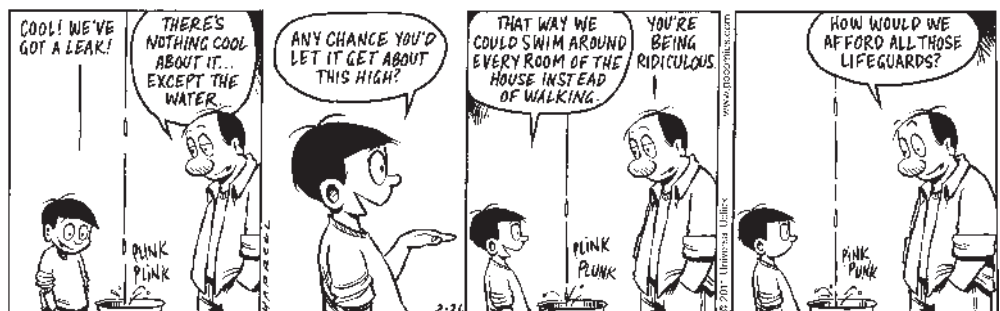
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



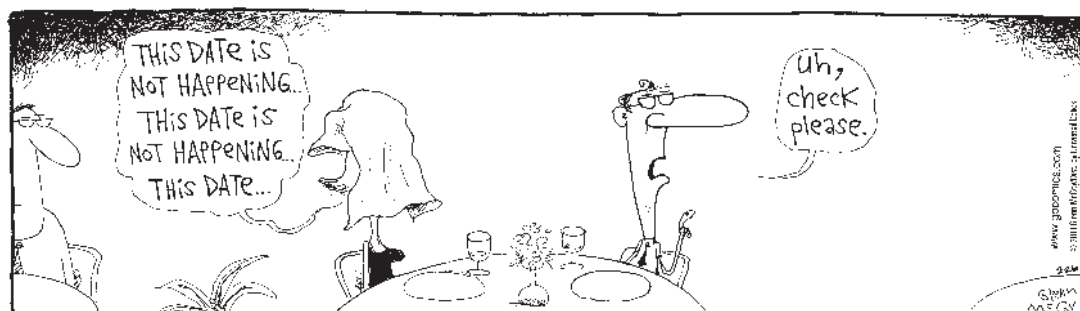
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Weasel's cousin
6 Burn aids
11 With candor
12 Immature insects
14 Armadas
15 Welcomes
16 Bleacherite
17 Leaked slowly
19 Eng. course
20 Being, Brutus
22 Kans. neighbor
23 Ancient strings
24 Blank verse's lack
26 1-Across et al.
28 Common Mkt.
30 Pick a target
31 Brownish songbird
35 Pillages

DOWN

39 Simple
40 Deteriorate
42 Old woman's home?
43 "Monty Python" opener
44 Breathing problem
46 Coach Shula
47 Some bedding
49 140-characters-or-less posts
51 "Some Like It Hot" star
52 Entertain grandly
53 Flight components
54 Worship
1 Tom
2 Wee
3 Indivisible
4 Choir voice
5 Holyfield foe
6 Math course
7 Fat
8 Galena, e.g.
9 Novelist Waugh
10 "SNL" specialty
11 Present
13 Sen. Kefauver
18 Last letter
21 Abrasive powder
23 Long rides?
25 Always, in verse
27 Wire measure
29 "CSI" extras
31 Tremor
32 Compassion
33 Agreement
34 Triumphed
36 "Heavens to Betsy!"
37 Play a piccolo
38 Logic
41 Aquarium fish
44 On
45 Dumb-founded
48 Before
50 Swelled head

Solution time: 27 mins.

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| P | E | A | S | I | N | T | E | R | |
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| K | E | N | L | I | T | A | B | A | S |
| O | R | E | F | L | Y | T | A | U | P |

Yesterday's answer 2-26

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Corinne Bailey Rae, 32; Erykah Badu, 40; Mark Dacascos, 47; Michael Bolton, 58

Happy Birthday: Your intuition is good but your timing is not. Avoid making rash decisions and impulsive moves. Problems with authority figures will be blown out of proportion if you cannot contain the way you feel. Instead, work quietly behind the scenes accomplishing your own goals. It's your choice this year—make the right one. Your numbers are 7, 11, 16, 25, 31, 40, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't let impulse be your downfall. There are too many variables today to take a risk that could set you back or cause a rift between you and someone you respect and/or love. Think before you act. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): The more you interact with others, the more you will accomplish. Understanding what others want and need will help you make decisions that will benefit everyone. Be the driving force instead of the one being pulled along. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Stop before you do or say something that will label you. You'll be expected to fulfill a promise you make, so be realistic about what you can or cannot do. A change within a close personal relationship will be emotional. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): If something appears to be impossible, it probably is. However, if you can see a way to unmask your fear of failure, you may be able to use your knowledge, experience and

sound memory to navigate your way to the finish line. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): An opportunity is apparent but will only work out favorably if it is within your means. Decide what you can live without and set your sights on what you can acquire. Building assets will ease your stress and secure your future. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can find love or make your current relationship better by being attentive and compromising. Don't be afraid to show your aggressive side, especially when it comes to physical activities and challenges that test your strength and endurance. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You may have your pulse on something that is truly creative but trying to get others to see your vision won't be that easy. Remove your emotions from the equation and find a practical way to incorporate what you want to do. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Doors are opening. You can accomplish plenty if you work from home or you arrange your residence to suit your goal-oriented needs. A change will bring with it inspiration and motivation. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will be up against opposition and can easily disrupt plans unintentionally. A sudden change of heart on your part or that of someone you are close to will mean you must protect your assets and your reputation. ★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't take on someone's responsibilities. It's vital that you put your strengths to work for yourself, so you don't fall behind. Getting together or the memories of someone from your past will help you make a decision about your future. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Join a group that will help you to help yourself. With added discipline, you can reach goals you fell short on in the past. Walk away from any poor influence and you will send a signal that confirms you are on the right track. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You must proceed with caution, especially when your personal well-being is at risk. Sometimes it's best to keep a secret and spare someone's feelings, especially if you are uncertain of what has actually transpired. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are insightful, emotional and extremely adaptable. You never do anything without making a big splash.
Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

| | | | | | | | | | |
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| | 9 | | 6 | | 7 | | 8 | | |
| 4 | | | | | | | | | 7 |
| | | | | | 2 | 8 | | | |
| 1 | | | | | 9 | 2 | | 8 | |
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| 5 | | 6 | 4 | | | | | | 1 |
| | | | 7 | 9 | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| | 6 | | 3 | | 5 | | 1 | | |

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

2/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 9 |
| 4 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 2 |
| 5 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 6 |
| 2 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 1 |
| 3 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 7 |
| 9 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 4 |
| 1 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 3 |
| 7 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 8 |

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

2/27

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99c per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword!

'THE TOURIST'

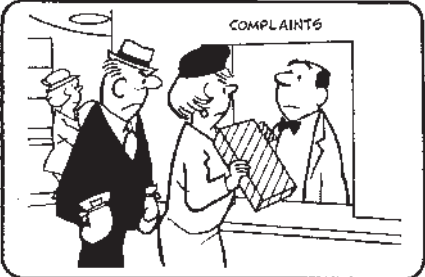
Solution: 10 letters

U E A W P E C I N E V N W P P
B V G I A N C O D E D O A K P
E O E R U H S T P I R T R I E
A L N E L E S R R R H F D S D
N E T I H J E C I A C I I S B
T P S C O T R H N D P L R B E
H U A H S R D I R O E C O R T
O T N G E H L E E V P A T E T
N N N M C E D F I E T V C G A
Y A M N G N A T A L F J E N N
G I E N A C C R K P O A P A Y
Z R A X D E C O Y N A J S R L
F O E E T E R C E S A R N T A
R L H E A R T S T O U R I S T
A F D E L I B E R A T E F S I

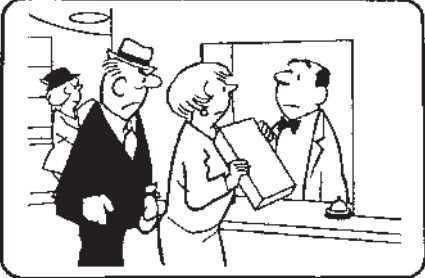
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Yesterday's Answer: Portrayal
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



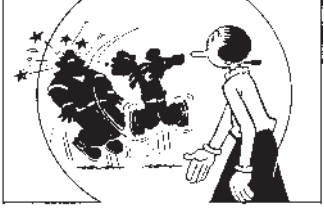
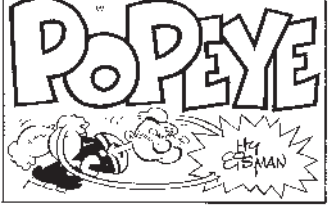
Differences: 1. "Complainers" sign is missing. 2. Woman has boxing glove is missing. 3. Bell is on counter. 4. Boy has no stripes. 5. One no hat. 6. Shopper's hat is black.

Wishing Well®

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 3 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 8 |
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CAN'T YOU FIND A BETTER WAY OF COMMUNICATING?

DON'T YOU REALIZE ANGER AND VIOLENCE ARE DESTRUCTIVE EMOTIONS?

PERHAPS HIS PROBLEM IS LOW SELF-ESTEEM?

HAVE YOU TRIED DISCUSSING YOUR DIFFERENCES?

I TRIED TO FIND THE ROOT CAUSE OF HIS HOSTILITY?

HEH-HEH... BY THE WAY, I'VE GOT MY OWN OIL... I GOT IT AT ALF'S DISCOUNT SHOP... HEH-HEH...

THE URGE TO BURL HIM IN OIL

I HATES IT WHEN SHE'S JES' BIN WATCHIN' OPRAH'S TV SHOW!

PEOPLE WE CAN DO WITHOUT... THEY ALWAYS TELL IT WHEN YOU'RE EATING...

... AND THE DOCTOR SAID IT WAS THE WORST GALL BLADDER HE'D EVER OPERATED ON... FULL OF BIG STONES... UGH... AND ALL INFECTED... HE MADE A LARGE INCISION RIGHT HERE BELOW THE ETC... ETC... AND OH, THE STITCHES RIGHT ACROSS THE ETC... AND ETC... THEN-N-OH, PAIN... AWK... AND...

EXP... ULP... AWK...

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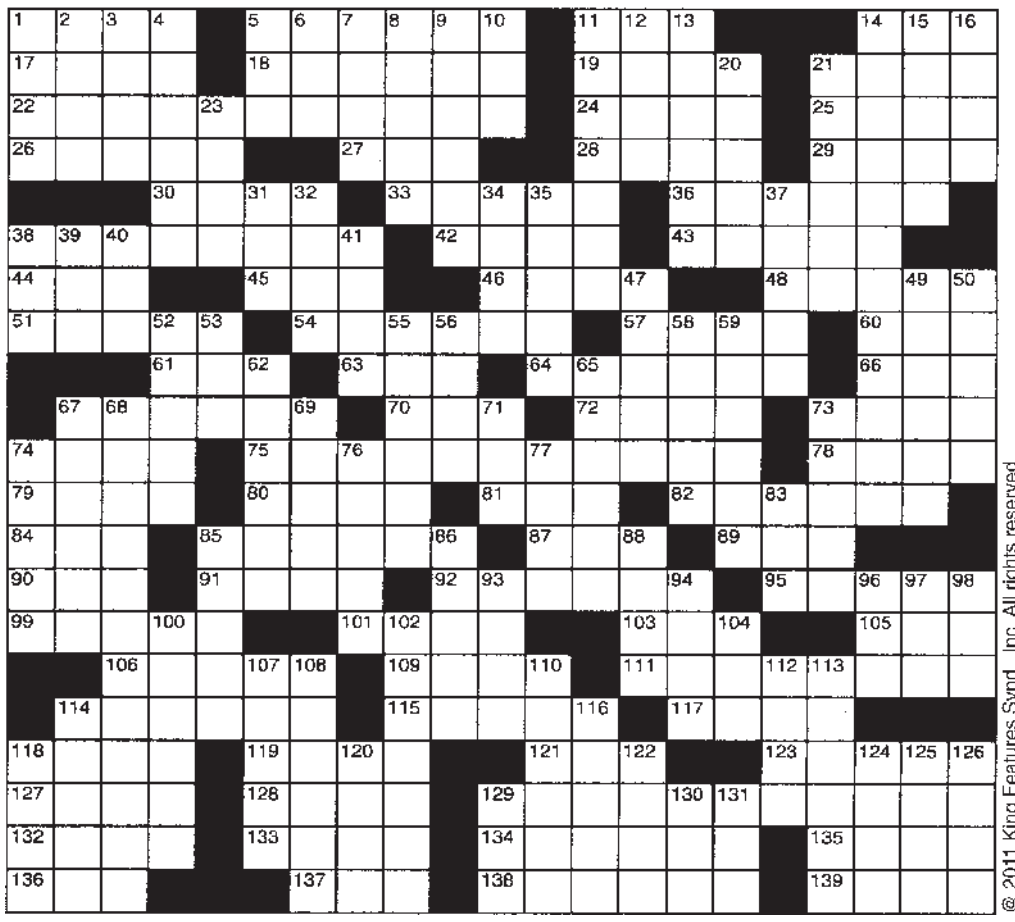
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Super Crossword SWAN SONGS

- ACROSS**
- 1 Like the Kalahari
 - 5 Jungle birds
 - 11 Mythical monster
 - 14 RN's specialty
 - 17 Actress Rowlands
 - 18 Lawrence's locale
 - 19 Chanteuse Edith
 - 21 Queens stadium
 - 22 Grace Kelly's final film
 - 24 Money drawer
 - 25 Semester
 - 26 Fred's sister
 - 27 Ultimate
 - 28 Capri, for one
 - 29 Cabell or Slaughter
 - 30 Native Peruvian
 - 33 Blood component
 - 36 Off course
 - 38 Jean Harlow's final film
 - 42 Tabula —
 - 43 Button part
 - 44 Assist
 - 45 Director Craven
 - 46 Chasm
 - 48 TV's "Boy — World"
 - 51 Rubbish
 - 54 Less
 - 57 Take a taxi
 - 60 Short swim
 - 61 — Aviv
 - 63 School grp.
 - 64 Yearbook features
 - 66 When Strasbourg sizzles
 - 67 Nags subtly
 - 70 Actor Tognazzi
 - 72 Redolence
 - 73 Adams or McClurg
 - 74 Vocalized
 - 75 Vivien Leigh's final film
 - 78 Mild oath
 - 79 Press
 - 80 Amos or Spelling
 - 81 Nourished
 - 82 Actor McGavin
 - 84 12 doz.
 - 85 Texas city
 - 87 Mack or Knight
 - 89 Wahine's neckwear
 - 90 Sneeze and wheeze
 - 91 — o'clock scholar
 - 92 Soccer shot
 - 95 With 116 Down, "Touched by an Angel" star
 - 99 Singer Helen
 - 101 Israeli diplomat
 - 103 Mink's coat
 - 105 Waterston or Wanamaker
 - 106 Let out the lava
 - 109 Eye part
 - 111 Peter Lorre's final film
 - 114 Ambush man
 - 115 Cpl. Walter O'Reilly
 - 117 Director Nicolas
 - 118 Ballyhoo
 - 119 "Green —" ('90 film)
 - 121 Swell place?
 - 123 Wise guys
 - 127 Piccadilly figure
 - 128 Eager
 - 129 John Wayne's final film
 - 132 Navel store?
 - 133 Verne captain
 - 134 Spring holiday
 - 135 Loathe
 - 136 Paw part
 - 137 Fall behind
 - 138 Answer for an admiral
 - 139 From the top
 - 1 Turkish title
 - 2 Tim of
 - "Simon & Simon"
 - 3 "Picnic" playwright
 - 4 Showy flower
 - 5 — jackel
 - 6 Geometry term
 - 7 First base man?
 - 8 Helps a hood
 - 9 Shovel up
 - 10 Utter
 - 11 Best
 - 12 Journalist Jacob
 - 13 "La Divina"
 - 14 Gary Cooper's final film
 - 15 Artist Neiman
 - 16 Machine parts
 - 20 Meat on the bones
 - 21 "Tristram Shandy" author
 - 23 Dispatched
 - 31 Bull's beloved
 - 32 '58 Pulitzer winner
 - 34 Fury
 - 35 Seize
 - 37 Subdues Simba
 - 38 HS exam
 - 39 Word on a pump
 - 40 Nutritional abbr.
 - 41 PDQ, politely
 - 47 Tolkien character
 - 49 Renaissance painter
 - 50 Velocity
 - 52 Play ground?
 - 53 Spell
 - 55 — "Cupid" ('58 hit)
 - 56 Othello's ensign
 - 58 — "you so!"
 - 59 — fin
 - 62 Rice's vampire
 - 65 Like a cobra
 - 67 Dreiser's "Sister —"
 - 68 Henry Fonda's final film
 - 69 Musical Dinah
 - 71 Wrong
 - 73 Mysterious
 - 74 It makes candy dandy
 - 76 Worth or Papas
 - 77 Greek cheese
 - 83 Chianti color
 - 85 Store
 - 86 "Pal Joey" author
 - 88 Adroit
 - 93 Geraint's lady
 - 94 German valley
 - 96 D-Day craft
 - 97 — Cruces, NM
 - 98 Gaffer Alcott
 - 100 Least humid
 - 102 '58 Everly Brothers hit
 - 104 Antique auto
 - 107 Pie nut
 - 108 Do Europe
 - 110 Strut
 - 112 Cuban currency
 - 113 Erie's colleague
 - 114 Neighbor of Jordan
 - 116 See 95 Across
 - 118 Employees
 - 120 "Green Mansions" girl
 - 122 Actress Nielsen
 - 124 — Carlo Menotti
 - 125 Punta del —
 - 126 Prunes
 - 129 Darjeeling export
 - 130 "Yo!"
 - 131 Metallurgist's concern



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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- 1. MOVIES: Who played the role of "Pardner" in the Western musical "Paint Your Wagon"?
- 2. GEOGRAPHY: Minsk is the capital of what former Soviet republic?
- 3. LITERATURE: In "Gone With the Wind," what were the first names of the Tarleton twins?
- 4. HISTORY: When did the Suez Canal open?
- 5. MYTHOLOGY: Who was the Norse trickster god?
- 6. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What sport did Scotland ban in 1457 for fear that it was interfering with the practice of archery, a vital part of the national defense?
- 7. MUSIC: Frank Sinatra first gained major fame by singing for which Big Band leader?
- 8. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who served as FDR's secretary of war 1940-1945?
- 9. U.S. STATES: Which state's nickname is the Pine Tree State?
- 10. FOOD & DRINK: What type of fruit is known as a honeydew?

- 10. Melon
- 9. Maine
- 8. Henry Stimson
- 7. Tommy Dorsey
- 6. Golf

- 3. Brent and Stuart
- 2. Belanus
- 1. Clint Eastwood

Saturday's Answers



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



CLASSIFIED ADS



CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

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| • 3-Liner with picture | \$24 | \$42 |
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- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Mary Cris Waing
P.O. Box 10001 PMB 116
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. 234-3462

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER
OF THE PETITION TO
APPOINT GENERAL
GUARDIANSHIP
FOR:

MARY LYN WAING and
MARY ANN WAING

Minor Child

by

MARY CRIS WAING and
FRANCES M. SABLAN
Petitioners.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition to
Appoint a Legal Guardian for the above-named
minor children by Mary Cris Waing and Frances
M. Sablan, Petitioners, was filed with the
above-entitled Honorable Court and is open for
review at the office of the Clerk of the said Court
in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the
Northern Mariana Islands.

A HEARING of said petition for
Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled
Honorable Court at Guam Hustisia Building,
Susupe, Saipan, NMI, before the Honorable
Robert C. Naraja on the 28th day of February
2011 at 9:00 A.M. or as soon as thereafter.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

**BBC INTERNET / GAME
DEBUT**

NEW CUSTOMER 1st hour FREE!
Mon-Fri. 3-4PM & 7-8PM 50%OFF
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Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily

Saipan Tribune

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applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/
students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

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Anaks Ocean View Hill Saipan

Owner is selling two, 2BR 1Bth living & separate
kitchen, resort style residential units. Drinkable tap
water, in house emergency generator, spacious
swimming pool, 24 hours guarded security.
Currently the units are let, perfect for cash flow
investment. \$120,000 or better offer. For more
details, send your inquiry to anaks@pticom.com

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH
Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view.
Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up
Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-
time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH
Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view.
Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up
Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-
time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

As Lito-4 BR, 2 1/2 bath house for rent.
Unfurnished and utilities not included.
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Construction corporation with good records
and a well known restaurant business for sale.
For more information please call 483-1123.

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Jets' Ryan: I guarantee we'll win it this year



INDIANAPOLIS
(AP)—Rex Ryan is at it again.

Brimming with confidence after his team reached the AFC championship game the past two seasons, the outspoken New York Jets coach has promised a Super Bowl win next season.

"I believe this is the year we're going to do it," he said. "I believe this is the year we're going to win the Super Bowl. The fact is, I thought we'd win it the first two years.

"I guarantee we'll win it this year."

The Jets are the only team to play in a conference championship game each of the past two years, something Ryan mentioned more than once while speaking to reporters Thursday at the NFL scouting combine. Ryan said his team made major strides last season, and he believes it is natural to expect the Jets to take the next step.

"I care what our organization believes and what our fans believe," he said. "If we can improve a little more, then why not us?"

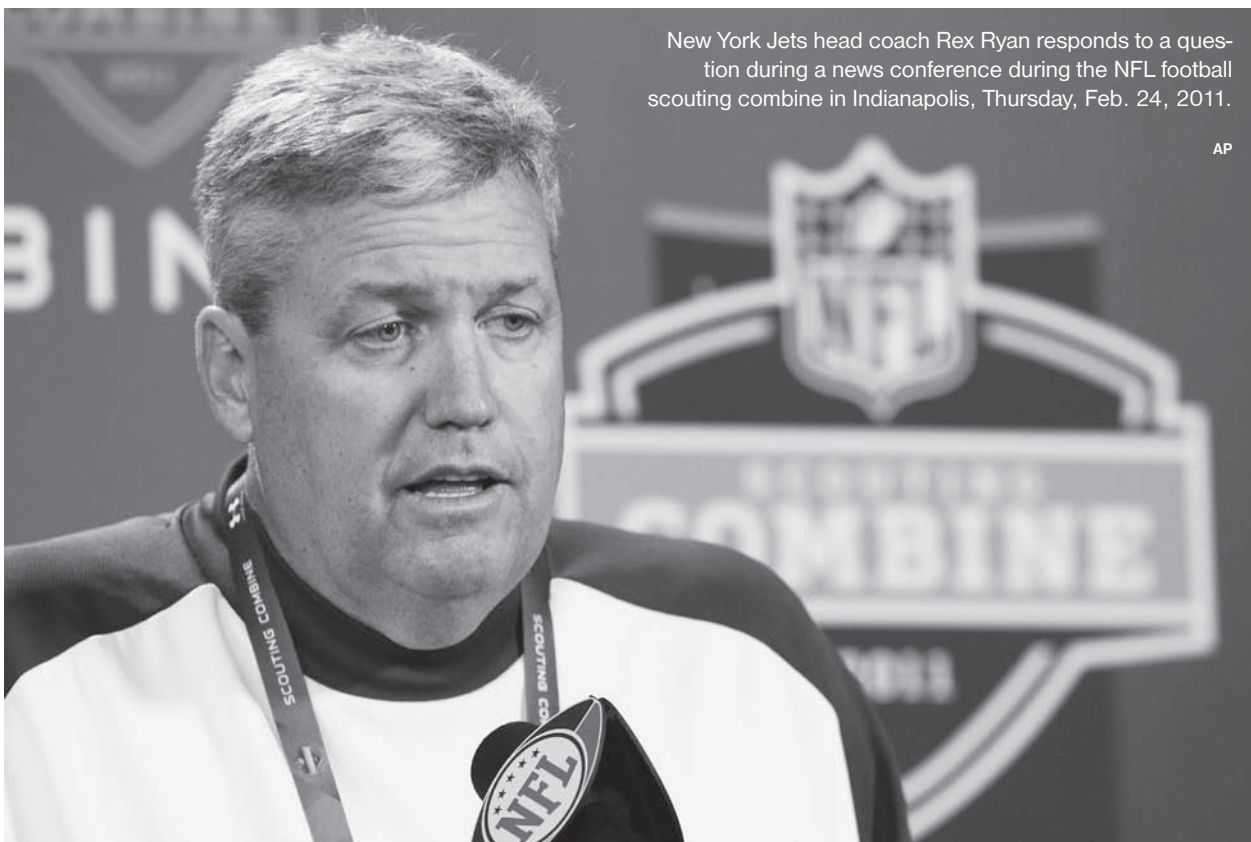
Ryan made headlines when he made the Jets' divisional playoff game against the Indianapolis Colts a "personal" matchup between himself and Colts quarterback Peyton Manning. The Jets prevailed 17-16. The next week, he pulled out the personal card again, this time calling out New England Patriots coach Bill Belichick, and the Jets won 28-21.

Ryan wasn't as brash heading into New York's AFC Championship matchup with Pittsburgh, and the Steelers defeated New York 24-19.

Thursday's 17-minute session was vintage Ryan. He talked for more than five minutes before taking a question, often drawing laughs from the media.

Jets general manager Mike Tannenbaum doesn't mind his coach speaking up.

"Anyone that's down or feeling bad



New York Jets head coach Rex Ryan responds to a question during a news conference during the NFL football scouting combine in Indianapolis, Thursday, Feb. 24, 2011.

AP

about themselves, spend a couple hours with him and I promise you'll laugh a few times," Tannenbaum said. "He's a great football coach. There's a lot been said about his personality, his guarantees, but at the end of the day, we got to judge him by his record. We're lucky to have him."

This isn't the first time Ryan has promised a title. During last season's training camp, Ryan was asked to sign his team's logo sticker on the back of ESPN's tour bus. Instead of just signing his name, the brash Ryan wrote: "Soon to be Champs."

When asked if such boasts become hollow if the team doesn't follow through, Ryan became defensive.

"I'm not the smartest guy of all time and the sharpest tack," he said. "And guarantee? I don't know. I just know how I feel."

Ryan said he's already started preparing for next season.

"You have time to go back, look at the tapes," he said. "You start looking at the films. Our offensive staff and defensive staff have been hard at work really looking at where we are as a team, breaking down everything, looking at ourselves critically, looking at what we did well, looking at what we can improve."

Ryan added that the team's 5-3 home record last season was disappointing, and he quipped that their No. 3 defensive ranking wasn't up to their standards.

"Our fans deserve better, and you know what?" Ryan said. "I think we're going to figure it out."

Ryan said he's not worried about the league's labor issues, he's only focused on winning.

"We have a plan for every scenario, and we feel great about our plan," he said. "I can comfortably say we're making no excuses. We're just going to find a way to get it done."

Mediator says NFL, union make 'some progress'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Just as many expected would happen all along, labor negotiations between the NFL and the players' union are heading right down to the wire—and possibly beyond.

In the first real indication of what's been going on behind closed doors, the federal mediator overseeing talks said Thursday the two sides made "some progress" during more than 40 hours spread over seven consecutive days of face-to-face meetings, but "very strong differences remain."

The league and union will resume mediation Tuesday, less than 72 hours before the old collective bargaining agreement is set to expire. If there's

no new deal in place by the end of next Thursday, the union thinks owners will move to lock out players, threatening the 2011 season. The NFL has said, however, that the deadline could be extended.

George Cohen, director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, released a statement shortly before noon Thursday, his first public comments since he began working with Commissioner Roger Goodell, NFL Players Association executive director DeMaurice Smith and their negotiating teams last week.

"At bottom, some progress was made," Cohen said, "but very strong

differences remain on the all-important core issues that separate the parties."

While Cohen did not name those issues, the biggest sticking point all along has been how to divide about \$9 billion in annual revenues. Among the other significant topics in negotiations: a rookie wage scale; the owners' push to expand the regular season from 16 games to 18 while reducing the preseason by two games; and benefits for retired players.

NFLPA executive director DeMaurice Smith and the rest of the union's negotiating team left the building at about 12:30 p.m., three hours after arriving. The NFL departed afterward.

Fowler bounces Mickelson out of match play



MARANA, Ariz.

(AP)—In a Match Play Championship with a youthful complexion, Rickie Fowler was dressed in matching pink shoes and shirt when he walked onto the driving range and past his opponent, Phil Mickelson, who looked him up and down and smiled.

"Sophia has some shoes like that," Mickelson said, referring to his 9-year-old daughter. "She wears them to her dance class."

Mickelson has become somewhat of a mentor to Fowler, so the kid knew what was coming.

Once they got onto the course, Fowler was hotter than his choice of color at Dove Mountain.

Fowler was 8-under par when their match ended on the 13th hole, a 6-and-5 win that sent Mickelson to his worst loss ever in this fickle tournament.

"I love guys like Phil. In a way, he's taken me under his wing a bit," Fowler said. "I love watching him play. I love playing with him. And obviously, it was huge for me going out there and getting the job done today."

Fowler was 5 under over the last

four holes, which included a chip-in for birdie from behind the 10th green and a pair of eagles, the last one with a 4-iron from 232 yards that landed just beyond a ridge and rolled so close that Mickelson conceded the putt.

"He doesn't really have a weakness," Mickelson said. "He really is a complete player, and he put it together today."

Fowler had plenty of company.

Equally impressive was Italy's teen sensation, 17-year-old Matteo Manassero, who hit a 6-iron to 4 feet on the 17th hole and closed out Charl Schwartzel of South Africa to advance. Jason Day, a 23-year-old Australian, played like a veteran of match play the way he toyed with Paul Casey in a 4-and-2 victory.

Of the final 16 players left at the Accenture Match Play Championship, eight are under 30.

That includes Nick Watney, who steadied his emotions over the last three holes to knock out top-ranked Lee Westwood - the third straight year the No. 1 seed did not make it out of the second round. The highest seed remaining after two wild days was PGA champion Martin Kaymer, the 25-year-old "Germanator" who had to go 20 holes to beat Justin Rose.

It hasn't been a bad week for the Americans at this World Golf Championship. They have eight players in the round of 16, the most in five years. The surprise is the list of players.

Tiger Woods, Steve Stricker and Jim Furyk were gone after the first round. Mickelson joined them on Thursday.

Leading the way is a new cast of emerging stars, from Fowler and Watney, to Hunter Mahan, who won three of the last five holes to rally against Robert Karlsson.

But this youth movement isn't about the Americans.

Manassero keeps setting age records wherever he goes—the youngest to win the British Amateur, the youngest to be low amateur at the British Open and the Masters, the youngest to win on the European Tour.

"It's a big sense of achievement for me," Manassero said.

He was in control for much of his match against Schwartzel until nearly giving it away. His tee shot on the 16th bounced off the corporate tents and into a cactus, and the Italian felt as though he might have moved the ball while trying to remove a loose branch. So he conceded the hole to Schwartzel, and put it behind him quickly.

His 6-iron on the 17th set up birdie,

and Manassero closed it out with a par on the 18th.

One youngster not invited to the party was 21-year-old Rory McIlroy, the No. 7 seed. He ran into Ben Crane, who played perhaps his quickest round ever—the match ended on the 11th hole, an 8-and-7 victory.

Crane has the reputation for slow play, although that wasn't an issue.

"We played quick out there because he was making birdies," McIlroy said.

U.S. Open champion Graeme McDowell had no trouble with Ross Fisher in a 4-and-2 victory, which assured he will move ahead of Woods in the next world ranking.

"I'm perhaps a better golfer than him in the last 12 months, but he's definitely the greatest player that's ever lived, I think," McDowell said. "Of course, if someone told me at some point in my career I would be No. 3 in the world, I'd be proud of that fact."

Kaymer, meanwhile, kept alive his chances of going to No. 1 when he held on to beat Rose and Westwood was beaten. The German will have to reach the championship match to go to No. 1.

Watney and Westwood halved the last three holes, although it wasn't that simple.

The turning point came on the par-3

16th, when Watney hit into a bunker, left it in the bunker and blasted out to 5 feet. Westwood had two putts from 20 feet to square the match, but knocked his first putt 3 1/2 feet by the hole. Watney made his putt for bogey, and Westwood's par putt barely touched the hole.

Then, Watney had a 5-foot birdie putt to win the match on the 17th and missed, giving life to Westwood. The Englishman had a 15-foot birdie putt to go into overtime, but it wasn't close.

Westwood took solace in going 18 holes "considering how badly I putted."

He has yet to record a top-10 finish in four starts this year.

With so much emphasis on youth, the oldest player in the field is still alive. That would be Miguel Angel Jimenez, the 47-year-old Spaniard with his love of cigars and red wine. Next up is Crane, who has never made it past the third round in this tournament.

"I don't think anyone is going, 'Wow, Ben Crane is really coming through this bracket. Look out! Gosh, sorry you've got to play Ben Crane. Boy, tough draw there,'" Crane said. "Rory didn't have his best day and things were going in my favor."

Things are going well for J.B. Holmes, too. He wasn't in the field until Tim Clark withdrew, and he beat Ernie Els on the 18th hole.

New-look Nuggets beat depleted Celtics

DENVER (AP)—Kenyon Martin scored 18 points and newcomer Wilson Chandler chipped in 16 as the Denver Nuggets closed the game with a 16-0 run to beat the shorthanded—and shortened—Boston Celtics 89-75 Thursday night.

The game pitted two teams that reshaped their rosters ahead of the NBA trade deadline.

The Nuggets had a bunch of new players and the Celtics a bunch of empty seats along their bench following a flurry of trades that unloaded a bunch of big men.

Denver played its first game with the five new players who came over in the blockbuster deal that sent star forward Carmelo Anthony and floor leader Chauncey Billups to the New York Knicks 48 hours earlier.

The Celtics suited up just nine players and had to fight through the emotions of losing center Kendrick Perkins, who was dealt to Oklahoma City for forward Jeff Green in the biggest of Boston's trio of trades Thursday.

The Nuggets, who are 2-0 since trading Melo, had their full complement of players, but their best defender, Martin, missed the second quarter while getting an IV in the locker room.

New Nuggets Chandler, Danilo Gallinari and Raymond Felton got off to a slow start, combining to shoot 2 for 12 in the first half, which ended with Denver ahead 37-36.

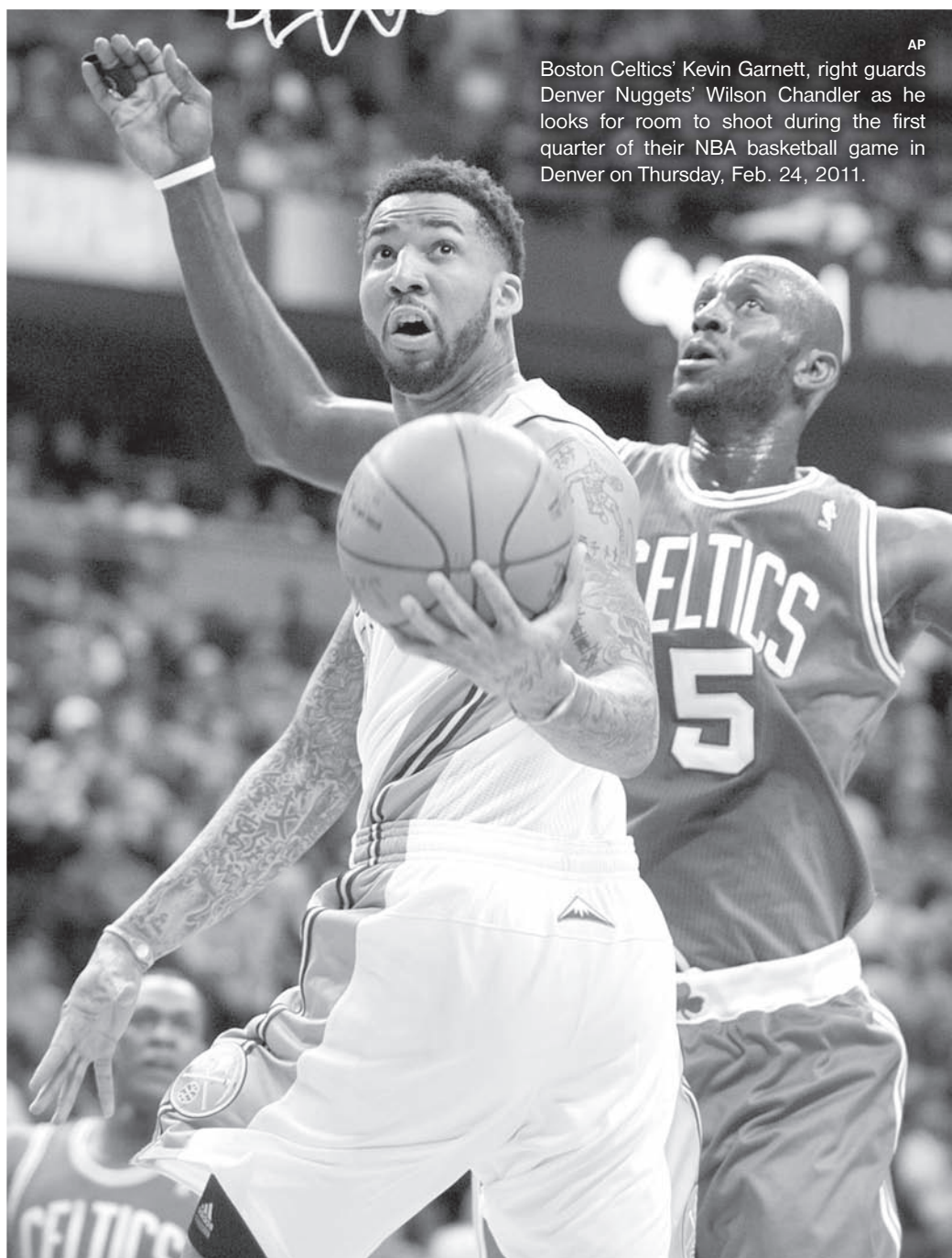
Denver took a 61-60 lead into the fourth quarter.

Paul Pierce, who led Boston with 17 points, hit a 3-pointer with 6 1/2 minutes remaining that gave Boston a 75-73 lead, but the Celtics wouldn't score again.

Chandler's 3-pointer put Denver ahead for good and Martin's three-point play with 3:03 left gave Denver its biggest lead to that point at 79-75.

Arron Afflalo hit back-to-back jumpers and a bonus and Martin hit a jumper and a 3, after which the downtrodden Celtics walked off the floor as the final 10 seconds ticked off the clock.

The Eastern Conference-leading Celtics also dealt reserve Nate Robinson to the Thunder and received Nenad Krstic, a future first-round draft pick, and cash in the deal that was approved by the NBA about



AP
Boston Celtics' Kevin Garnett, right guards Denver Nuggets' Wilson Chandler as he looks for room to shoot during the first quarter of their NBA basketball game in Denver on Thursday, Feb. 24, 2011.

bigger team in the playoffs and they might not have been big enough," Karl said.

"You can always play small."

Which is what Rivers will have to do more of now.

Bulls 93, Heat 89

In Chicago, Derrick Rose scored 26 points and Luol Deng added 20, including the game-winning 3-pointer, as Chicago topped Miami.

In a game between two of the Eastern Conference's top teams,

Perkins leads the big bodies moving at deadline

By BRIAN MAHONEY
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

Big bodies replaced big names on the final day of the NBA's trading season.

Boston traded starting center Kendrick Perkins, while Hasheem Thabeet, Nenad Krstic, Joel Przybilla and Nazr Mohammed were some other men in the middle who were dealt Thursday before the 3 p.m. EST deadline.

Baron Davis and Gerald Wallace were among the former All-Stars who moved on a busy day that featured plenty of action but no blockbusters like the ones that landed Carmelo Anthony in New York and Deron Williams in New Jersey earlier in the week.

The Celtics traded Perkins, their starting center who had recently returned from a knee injury sustained in Game 6 of the NBA finals, along with Nate Robinson to Oklahoma City for Jeff Green, Krstic, a future first-round draft pick and cash.

"He's a team-first guy, plays great low-post defense," Chicago coach Tom Thibodeau, a former Boston assistant, said of Perkins. "There may not be a better low-post defender in the league."

Boston also dealt backup big man Semih Erden and reserve swingman Marquis Daniels, an active day for the team that began the night percentage points ahead of the Miami Heat for the best record in the Eastern Conference.

They get back Green, the power forward they drafted at No. 5 in 2007 but traded to Seattle in the deal for Ray Allen. But with Perkins gone, and Shaquille O'Neal and Jermaine O'Neal battling injuries most of the season, interior defense is now a question mark for a team that appeared to have loaded up on it this season for a potential advantage against Miami.

"I'm just as surprised as everyone else was," the Heat's LeBron James said.

Wallace was an All-Star last season, but is owed about \$21 million over the next two years, so the cost-cutting Bobcats have been shopping him. He'll try to help the Trail Blazers reach the postseason.

"He is just the sort of talent we were looking for," Blazers owner Paul Allen said in a statement

the Bulls used a big third quarter to turn a nine-point Miami halftime lead into a 71-67 advantage. Chicago then held on despite falling behind by four points in the fourth quarter.

Deng's 3-pointer with 16 seconds remaining broke an 89-all tie and gave Chicago its 16th win in 21 games.

Dwyane Wade scored 34 points and LeBron James added 29 for Miami, which lost for only the second time in 13 games.

announcing the trade. "I'm sure our fans will embrace him and hopefully he can help us make some noise in the playoffs."

Davis and an unprotected 2011 first-round draft pick went from the Los Angeles Clippers to Cleveland for Mo Williams and forward Jamario Moon. Davis and Cavs coach Byron Scott clashed when they were together in New Orleans, but Scott said the point guard apologized for his past behavior before a preseason game.

"He hugged me and said, 'I love you,'" Scott said. "It's water under the bridge."

Aaron Brooks' tumultuous season in Houston, where he was suspended a game for leaving the court early, ended when he was dealt to Phoenix for Goran Dragic and a first-round pick. Last year's winner of the most improved player award will now back up Steve Nash, and potentially someday replace him, with the Suns.

But the biggest of the seven deals Thursday was for a big guy. Perkins could now help the Thunder against potential West playoff foes, such as the Lakers, Spurs or Mavericks.

While many teams were looking for size, Memphis gave some up with the trade of Thabeet, the No. 2 pick in the 2009 draft. He's played sparingly and the Grizzlies decided not to waiting for him to develop, moving him to bring veteran Shane Battier back to Memphis.

"It is important to us that we make the playoffs, that we do go to the playoffs," owner Michael Heisley said. "Quite bluntly, we think that Shane at this point in time would be more productive in the short run."

The Knicks looked around for a big man, but lacked assets to do much after sending so much out in the three-team trade with Denver and Minnesota. Team president Donnie Walsh said they would check players who may be bought out or even might search for someone not currently in the NBA.

Detroit wanted to deal Richard Hamilton and the \$20 million he's guaranteed to make over the next two seasons, but couldn't make a win-win trade with a team that wanted the three-time All-Star and 2004 NBA champion.

five hours after Thursday's trade deadline.

Earlier in the day, the Celtics acquired draft picks by sending forward Luke Harangody and rookie center Semih Erden to Cleveland and injured swingman Marquis Daniels to Sacramento.

With such a short bench for coach Doc Rivers to work with, the Celtics called up center Chris Johnson from the D-League, signed him to a 10-day contract and put him right to work.

"We had him in camp. So, he'll play tonight," River said. "He won't know what he's doing but he'll be out there. He'll be out there early. We needed the body and he can play a little bit. He was playing terrific in the D-League."

Johnson scored six points.

Perkins recently returned from a knee injury he sustained in Game 6 of the NBA finals.

Once loaded with interior size, the Celtics will now have to hope Shaquille O'Neal and Jermaine O'Neal get healthy in time for the playoffs.

"Well, it's a key proponent of this. We need to get Shaq healthy. Shaq will be healthy. But if Shaq plays great, then this deal was obviously really, really good for us," River said. "And that's on Shaq. Getting Shaq in great shape, getting him ready, getting him healthy is really going to be important for us in the playoffs."

The inclusion of Krstic, the Thunder's starting center since they brought him back to the NBA from Russia in December 2008, should help offset Boston's loss of Perkins. Krstic had been out of the league after suffering a knee injury with New Jersey.

The Nuggets are hoping to

stay in the playoff hunt in the West following the megadeal that brought in Gallinari, Felton, Chandler and Timofey Mazgov from New York and Kosta Koufus from Minnesota.

The five newcomers participated in one high-altitude practice and one shootaround before facing the Celtics, and Nuggets coach George Karl gave Gallinari the start over J.R. Smith to ease his rotations.

While the big debate across the league Thursday was whether the Celtics made the right move in trading away Perkins, Karl looked at it from the Western Conference perspective.

"I heard Oklahoma City wasn't going to pay the money for Green. In one sense, Oklahoma City is saying they know they have to beat a San Antonio, they have to beat an L.A., they know they have to beat a

Kings request extension to decide relocation plans

The Sacramento Kings could be the next NBA franchise on the move.

In the latest and perhaps strongest signal yet that the Kings are considering a new home, the franchise filed a request Thursday for an extension on the NBA's March 1 deadline to inform the league if they intend to seek permission to relocate next season.

The Kings would have the

opportunity to discuss their options at the NBA's Board of Governors meetings April 14-15, NBA spokesman Tim Frank confirmed in an e-mail to The Associated Press. The board is considering the Kings' request.

The filing took Sacramento mayor and former NBA player Kevin Johnson by surprise.

Johnson said he learned of the decision from a Google news

alert and was upset he wasn't notified by the Kings first. He wrote on his Twitter account that it's "time to fight for our economic and cultural future. Kings relocation is bigger than a basketball team, and Sac deserves better."

"We're going to fight. The deal is not done," Johnson later said at a news conference in Sacramento. "We know they're looking elsewhere. But

it's not a done deal. If it was a done deal, they would have filed on March 1."

Sacramento has struggled for years to build a new arena, which Kings owners Joe and Gavin Maloof argue is crucial for the franchise's long-term financial viability. Johnson said cash-strapped Sacramento will still work toward building a new sports arena with or without the Kings. (AP)

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES**NBA STANDINGS****EASTERN CONFERENCE****Atlantic Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|--------------|----|----|------|--------|
| Boston | 41 | 15 | .732 | — |
| New York | 29 | 26 | .527 | 11 1/2 |
| Philadelphia | 28 | 29 | .491 | 13 1/2 |
| New Jersey | 17 | 40 | .298 | 24 1/2 |
| Toronto | 16 | 42 | .276 | 26 |

Southeast Division

| | | | | |
|------------|----|----|------|--------|
| Miami | 42 | 16 | .724 | — |
| Orlando | 36 | 22 | .621 | 6 |
| Atlanta | 34 | 23 | .596 | 7 1/2 |
| Charlotte | 25 | 32 | .439 | 16 1/2 |
| Washington | 15 | 41 | .268 | 26 |

Central Division

| | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|------|--------|
| Chicago | 39 | 17 | .696 | — |
| Indiana | 26 | 30 | .464 | 13 |
| Milwaukee | 22 | 35 | .386 | 17 1/2 |
| Detroit | 21 | 38 | .356 | 19Q |
| Cleveland | 10 | 47 | .175 | 29 |

WESTERN CONFERENCE**Southwest Division**

| | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|------|----|
| San Antonio | 47 | 10 | .825 | — |
| Dallas | 41 | 16 | .719 | 6 |
| New Orleans | 34 | 25 | .576 | 14 |
| Memphis | 32 | 27 | .542 | 16 |
| Houston | 28 | 31 | .475 | 20 |

Northwest Division

| | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|------|-------|
| Oklahoma City | 36 | 20 | .643 | — |
| Denver | 34 | 25 | .576 | 3 1/2 |
| Portland | 32 | 25 | .561 | 4 1/2 |
| Utah | 31 | 27 | .534 | 6 |
| Minnesota | 13 | 45 | .224 | 24 |

Pacific Division

| | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|------|--------|
| L.A. Lakers | 40 | 19 | .678 | — |
| Phoenix | 28 | 27 | .509 | 10 |
| Golden State | 26 | 30 | .464 | 12 1/2 |
| L.A. Clippers | 21 | 37 | .362 | 18 1/2 |
| Sacramento | 14 | 41 | .255 | 24 |

Yesterday's Games

Chicago 93, Miami 89
Denver 89, Boston 75

By The Associated Press

Phat Boyz join Natibu atop men's standings

By **WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND**
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Phat Boyz are tied for first place with Natibu in the 2nd Budweiser Chamolinian Slow-Pitch Softball League after routing Berdax, 20-11, Wednesday night at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

Both frontrunners are undefeated in three games.

Other winners from Wednesday's action are Calikano Groupers and V-Power.

The Groupers pulled off a 15-7 upset over the 2010 runner-up Man Amigos in the curtain raiser to even out its record to 2-2. It was Man Amigos' first loss in three games.

V-Power, meanwhile, dealt Braddahs a crushing last-inning defeat, 17-16, in the nightcap. The win improved V-Power's mark to 3-1, while Braddahs are still trying to break into the win column after three tries.

Phat Boyz 20, Berdax 11

Phat Boyz started early with a 12-run romp in the first inning.

Byron Kaipat and Glen Ca-

macho each hit RBI singles, and after a run scored off an error, Craig Sanchez busted a two-RBI base hit.

With the bases still loaded, Jun Kaipat unleashed a grand slam and a double and a hit later, Toi Celis smashed a two-run homer.

Berdax then started the second 1-2-3 and Phat Boyz added four runs to its lead. Camacho knocked in a two-run homer, Phil Celis an RBI double, and Jun Kaipat an RBI single.

Berdax finally got on the board with three runs to start the third off an error and a two-RBI double by Franco Flores, but Phat Boyz got two back in the bottom frame off a two-run shot by Byron Kaipat.

Phat Boyz's bats cooled until the last inning, while Berdax mustered up three runs to start the fourth off an RBI double by Bill Camacho and a two-run homer by Vaughn Hofschneider.

Berdax managed three solo shots by Jack Guerrero, Flores, and Frank Robert in the fifth and added two more off a two-run blast by Aling Uludong in the sixth to trail, 11-18.

Phat Boyz added two runs off an error and a fielder's choice in

the bottom of the sixth and held on to force a 1-2-3 inning for the win. Phat Boyz's Jun Kaipat batted 3-for-3 with a grand slam and five RBIs.

V-Power 17, Braddahs 16

V-Power took an early 4-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning off a two-RBI single by Ron Benevente, an RBI single by Ben Mesa, and a sacrifice fly by E.J. Tenorio.

Braddahs had no answer to start the second and V-Power added a run in the bottom frame off an RBI rip by Mel Sakisat.

Braddahs came up empty again to start the third and V-Power's jumped ahead 11-0 in the bottom frame.

A leadoff hit and a walk set up a three-run blast by Eric Tenorio. Three batters later Chris Camacho delivered an RBI double followed by a sacrifice fly by Henry Reyes and an RBI single by Ivan Igitol.

Braddahs' Ryan Sablan led off the fourth with a solo homer and the other run came off an error to trim the deficit to 2-11.

Braddahs held V-Power scoreless in the bottom frame and went on to tie the count at 11-all

in the top of the fifth inning.

Braddahs' Nanu Kapileo led off with a solo shot, Greg Iguel knocked in Fonzie Tarope, two more runs then came in off errors. Clifton Sillil then belted an RBI single and a walk later Jose Iguel busted a three-run homer.

V-Power's E.J. Tenorio roped an RBI single to reclaim the lead in the bottom frame, 12-11, but Braddahs got it back in the top of the sixth off an error.

V-Power went ahead 14-12 in the bottom half off RBI singles by Igitol and George David.

Braddahs managed four runs in its final stand off a two-RBI double by John Iguel and RBI singles by Jose and Henry Iguel, but V-Power trumped the effort with a two-run blast by Eric Tenorio followed by a solo homer by Mesa. V-Power's Eric Tenorio batted 4-for-4 with a pair of homers, five RBIs, and four runs.

Calikano Groupers 15, Man Amigos 7

Man Amigos took an early 3-0 lead in the first inning off a three-run bomb by Manny Sablan, but Calikano Groupers fired back with a 10-run assault in the bottom frame.

The Lions managed a run in the top of the third off a wild pitch, but Hustlers answered with four more runs in the bottom frame off a wild pitch, errors, and a fielder's choice.

The Lions briefly trimmed its deficit in half, 4-8, with three runs in the top of the fourth, but Hustlers got two of them back in the bottom frame.

Hustlers stuffed the Lions at the start of the fifth and went on to score the four runs needed to secure the run-rule decision primarily off wild pitches. Winning pitcher Duenas allowed two earned runs and gave up five hits and five walks with eight strikeouts in five innings.

Northern Stars 12, Hunters 1

On Sunday, the Natibu Sports Association Northern Stars run-ruled the JC Marketing Hunters, 12-1.

Northern Stars took control early with six runs in the first inning. Josh Jones hit a two-RBI triple, David Jones later stole home, and the other runs came off errors and wild pitches.

The Hunters went 1-2-3 to start the second and the Stars

inning, Manny hit a double, driving John Pialur home for Hilitai's 2-1 lead. Wuzz Up's first batter was tagged out and the next two flied out, giving Hilitai its first win in three games.

Haga T 9, Red Torch 2

Haga T also claimed its first victory after downing Red Torch, 9-2.

Haga T silenced Red Torch in the last five innings to nail the win. On offense, Tom Ito and Emery Cruz both went 2-for-3 at bat with the former adding three RBIs and the latter posting two.

Ben Falig drilled an RBI double and Joe Sablan stepped in next and jacked a three-run blast.

A hit later Chris Pangelinan hit a two-run shot and after a run scored off an error, Mario Salas and Fred Pangelinan each nailed solo homers; the last run came off an error.

The Groupers then went ahead 12-1 in the bottom of the third off a solo shot by Jun Tenorio and an error.

Man Amigos managed three runs to start the fourth off a couple of errors and a homer by Peter Sablan, but Groupers got those back in the bottom frame off a Chris Pangelinan sacrifice fly to make it 13-6.

Man Amigos' Julian Camacho hit a solo shot to start the fifth, but Groupers answered with two runs in the bottom frame and held on for the win.

Softball action continues at Capitol Hill on Monday with a 6:30pm men's matchup featuring Natibu and Familia (0-3), followed by a women's matchup between Check-It-Out and NMC PROAs at 7:30pm. The night concludes with an 8:30pm men's game between G-Ballers and Your Balls.

added a run in the bottom frame to go ahead 7-0.

After a scoreless third, Hunters managed its lone run off a wild pitch to start the fourth, but Stars' Josh Jones stole home in the bottom frame to get it back.

Hunters went 1-2-3 in its last two chances, while Stars added a run in the fifth and three more to end the sixth to secure the run-rule victory.

Winning pitcher Jones was lights out once again allowing an unearned run and just four hits and a walk with 12 strikeouts. He also helped himself at the plate batting 3-for-3 with two RBIs, four runs, a base on ball, and a stolen base.

BREWERS

From Page 28

scoreless.

Ol'Aces then finally blinked in the bottom of the eighth frame with two outs and runners on second and third. They gave up four runs off a two-RBI double by Kaipat, an error, and an RBI single by Manny Sablan.

Shortly after it was three up and three down for Ol'Aces to start the ninth and just like that the Brewers stole the game at the last second.

Winning pitcher Vince Cepeda went all nine and gave up two earned runs on just three hits with seven walks to go along with 16 strikeouts and a pair of hit batsmen. Brewers' Kaipat batted 3-for-4 with three RBIs, three runs, and a base on ball.

SML action continues Wednesday night at Palacios field starting 6pm with a juicy matchup featuring the D-9ers (1-0) taking on the St. Michael's Angels (2-0).

JETS

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The Jets then gashed the Hunters with six runs to start the fourth to go ahead 10-4. Brian Camacho tripled in Ray Tenorio, Quinson Blas brought in Tenorio, and the Jets scored the rest off walks and errors with the bases loaded.

The Hunters managed to get two back, but the Jets went ahead 11-6 in the top of the fifth.

The Hunters refused to lie down and trimmed its deficit to 9-11 in the bottom frame. Clayton Agumon hit a sacrifice fly, Robert Tudela hit an RBI single, and the other run came in off an error.

The Jets then smacked the Hunters down again with four runs to start the sixth. Lucio Kalen led off with a hit and stole home, Camacho doubled in Jordan Taitano, and the other two runs came in off errors.

The Hunters only managed a pair of runs in both the bottom of the sixth and seventh innings.

Ol'Aces 8, Heats 4

Last Monday, the CTSI-Ol'Aces downed the Rep. Rafael Dema-

pan Heats, 8-4 in another game in the Senior League.

The Heats managed two runs off a two-RBI double by Vicente Cabrera in the top of the first inning, but Ol'Aces answered with a six-run onslaught in the bottom frame.

Donavin Yamagishi and A.J. Lizama each busted RBI doubles, T.J. Sablan hit an RBI single, Thyse Tutiy drove in two runners, and another run came off a wild pitch.

Heats went 1-2-3 to start the second and Ol'Aces added a run in the bottom frame off a wild pitch.

Neither team would score again until the sixth inning when Heats scored a pair of runs off wild pitches to start the frame.

Ol'Aces' Lizama busted an RBI triple to get a run back and his teammates forced the Heats to go 1-2-3 in the last inning for the win.

Ol'Aces 11, Jets 1

The week before on Feb. 17, Ol'Aces run-ruled the Jets. The Oleai squad jumped to an early lead 4-0 in the first inning off an RBI single by A.J. Lizama and

Jonah Flores and a two-RBI single by Frankie Camacho.

After six of the first seven batters reached, the Jets tapped Brian Camacho in relief for John Inaero on the mound.

The Jets scored its only run in the bottom frame, but only managed two base runners the rest of the way.

Meanwhile, Ol'Aces added a pair of runs to start the fourth and bagged the five runs it needed to threaten a run-rule victory in the top of the fifth; three of the runs came off errors.

Ol'Aces went on to close the final three outs for the win. Winning pitcher Frankie Camacho allowed an earned run, gave up just one hit, two walks with five strikeouts, and a hit-by-pitch in five innings.

BIG LEAGUE

IT&E Fielders 7, Hustlers 3

IT&E Fielders defeated the Hustlers in Big League play last Monday.

After each team scored a run in the first inning, IT&E took a 2-1 lead in the top of the third off an RBI double by Juan Maratita.

and gained a share of the lead with TTK 2 after a 10-4 triumph over Go for Broke.

Asahi shut out Go for Broke in the first three innings and scored seven runs to seize control of the match. Ben Agumon hit only 1-for-2 at bat, but made three RBIs for Asahi.

TKK 2 17, Dial Rent 2 Own 2

TKK 2 recorded the most lopsided win of the week after 17-2 victory over Dial Rent 2 Own.

Manny Sablan and Henry Fitipol each connected a three-run homer for TTK with the former doing it in the first in-

Charly Kenty and Jake Koshiba homered for Peleliu, leading the team to a 12-1 win over the AJ Falcons.

Kenty had a two-run homer in the first inning where Peleliu took a quick 5-0 lead, while Koshiba connected on a three-run round-tripper in the third for the team's commanding 10-0 advantage.

The Falcons had their lone run in the fourth inning with Funny Kelulau's single driving William Sablan home.

Asahi 10, Go for Broke 4

Asahi improved to a 3-0 record

KOROR

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Cepeda home.

Auel Auel's Vince Repeki also had an automatic walk to start the bottom of the eighth inning and reached home plate off Dante Sablan's sacrifice fly to slice the Tigers' lead to one, 10-11. Auel Auel's next two batters flied out, too, ending the game in favor of the Tigers.

Other winners in last week's games were Peleliu, Asahi, TTK 2, Hilitai, and Haga T.

Peleliu 12, Falcons 1



Jets' Ryan: I guarantee we'll win it this year
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Saipan Tribune Sports

New-look Nuggets beat depleted Celtics
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28 SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2011

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Minor clinches 3 crowns in Guam

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI junior tennis player Thea Minor competed in the 2011 Shirley Lai Memorial Cup in Guam last weekend and went home with three championships.

The 15-year-old netter won in the girls U18 singles and doubles and U16 doubles. She missed sweeping four events after only advancing to the semifinals of the U16 singles.

In the round-robin girls U8 singles, Minor played Amber Gadsden in the first round and the CNMI bet prevailed, 8-4. Then in her next match, Minor nailed a similar 8-4 triumph over Katie Lai to secure the U18 championship.

In the U18 doubles, Minor teamed up with Guam's Chloe Gadsden and the duo was seeded second in the four-team field.

The Minor-Chloe Gadsden tandem faced Camdyn Nadler and Pualani Lansing and the seeded pair cruised to an 8-1 victory to make it to the finals

against top-ranked Amber Gadsden and Lai.

In the finals, Minor and Chloe Gadsden picked up where they left off, easing past their top-seeded foes, 8-1.

Minor secured her second doubles crown in the Shirley's Cup after she teamed up with Chloe Gadsden in ruling the U16 division. The Commonwealth netter and Chloe Gadsden were unseeded in the six-team field and were scheduled to meet the CNMI's Melody Johnson and Mikayla Lopez in the first game. Johnson did not make the Guam trip, leaving Lopez to play with a different partner and eventually losing the match, 0-8.

The victory moved Minor and Chloe Gadsden to the semifinals where they stunned No. 2



Andrea and Allie Lai, 8-0, to advance to the championship game. In the finals, Minor and Chloe Gadsden were pitted against No. 1 seeds Nadine Del Carmen and Camdyn Nadler and the CNMI bet and her teammate won anew, 8-2. Del Carmen and Camdyn Nadler drew a bye in the first round and then beat Shiho Katsura and Yui Kikuchi, 8-6, to gain a finals berth.

In the U16 singles, Minor competed in an eight-player draw and was unseeded anew in the field. She started her bid in the younger age group with a big 8-0 win over Ashley Nadley.

Minor advanced to the semifinals where she was paired against second seed Katie Lai and the former lost, 5-8. Lai went on top win the U16 singles title after beating Chloe Gadsden in the extended finals, 9-7.

The 2011 Shirley Lai Memorial Cup was sanctioned by the U.S. Tennis Association-Hawaii Pacific.

Thea Minor, seen here in action in a local tournament, was in Guam last weekend and won three events in the 2011 Shirley Lai Memorial Cup.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Koror Tigers claw Auel Auel

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The Koror Tigers notched their second win in a row in the 2011 Belau Amateur Softball Association Slow-Pitch League after slipping past Auel Auel in extra innings, 11-10, last Sunday at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.

Gloyd Martin blasted a two-run homer at the top the

eighth inning to lift the Tigers to a 2-1 record.

The Tigers tallied two runs at the bottom seventh to force extra innings as the score was tied, 9-all. At the top of the eighth, Koror leadoff batter Vince Cepeda was automatically given a walk as per tournament rules in extra inning. Then second batter Tim Cruz flied out, while Martin was next at bat and made the game-winning hit, driving

See **KOROR** on Page 27



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tyron Omar, seen here at bat in a local tournament, plays for Koror Tigers, which edged Auel Auel, 11-10, during the Belau league last weekend at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.

Jets shoot down Hunters; Ol'Aces win twice

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



The Saipan Shipping-Pacific Amusement Jets defeated the St. Michael's Hunters, 15-11, as play in the Senior League of the Saipan Little League Baseball Association continued Wednesday night at Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Hunters took an early 2-0 lead in the first inning, but the Jets got them back in the top of the second.

The game was then knotted again at 4-all after both teams scored a pair of runs in the third inning—all coming off errors.

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WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND

The Saipan Shipping Company-Pacific Amusement Jets pose for a team photo after its 15-11 victory over the St. Michael's Hunters in Senior League play Wednesday night at Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Brewers pull off late rally over Ol'Aces, 6-3

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After enduring a 9-3 loss to IT&E Fielders on opening day, Brewers tightened up its defense and completed a late

four-run rally in the bottom of the eighth inning to sneak past Ol'Aces, 6-3, in last Thursday's Saipan Major League matchup at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Brewers now hold an even 1-1 win-loss card, while Ol'Aces is still looking for its first win after two tries.

Ol'Aces loaded the bases to start the first inning, but the Brewers got out of the jam and allowed only one run off a walk.

The Brewers then took a brief 2-1 lead in the bottom frame off an error and an RBI single by Byron Kaipat.

Both teams went 1-2-3 in the second and Ol'Aces reclaimed

the lead, 3-2, in the top of the third inning. Nanu Kapileo tripled in Jack Lizama and later scored off a passed ball.

From there, Ol'Aces shut down the Brewers defensively with four consecutive double plays, but the Brewers also did its part to keep Ol'Aces

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